

US will be ready for war by deadline

Major to visit Gulf troops in early January

By MICHAEL EVANS AND ROBIN OAKLEY

THE prime minister is to visit British forces in the Gulf to boost morale ahead of the January 15 war deadline. John Major's trip was announced yesterday as America confirmed that all its ground forces would be then be ready for combat.

Mr Major is expected to go to the Middle East in the first week in January, although no firm date has been fixed. He is also trying to arrange a visit to see President Bush in Washington before Christmas.

The prime minister's plans were announced after he spent half an hour with General Colin Powell, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, at Downing Street yesterday. British officials emphasised that the meeting was not "a council of war", and Mr Major later told Conservative MPs and peers that Britain fully supported Mr Bush's willingness to "travel the extra mile" to achieve a peaceful solution to the confrontation, saying "so are we".

Mr Major was, however, said to have expressed his satisfaction at the meeting with General Powell with the

way British and American commanders were co-operating in Saudi Arabia as they prepared for a possible offensive. Richard Cheney, the American defence secretary, confirmed in Warsaw yesterday that the 150,000 American reinforcements would be operational by mid-January. British reinforcements - a second brigade of 14,000 men deploying now - will also be ready then. But Mr Cheney declined to discuss when an attack might be launched. "A decision about how long to wait has not been made," he said at the start of his two-day visit to the Polish capital. "I don't want to get into the business of talking about the calendar."

Mr Cheney's officials said that the United States would have 400,000 military personnel in the Gulf region by January 15. An extra 300 fighter aircraft would also be in position. However, it was not clear when extra naval forces, including a further three carrier battle groups, would be in the region. The carriers USS Theodore Roosevelt and USS America are due to leave for the Gulf soon after Christmas. No date has been fixed for the departure of the USS Ranger.

The Senate armed services committee that the administration "might want to urge others to do more, and probably will, given the increased size of our deployment".

The European foreign ministers reaffirmed their support for the UN resolution authorising the use of force, and backed Mr Bush's initiative in seeking direct talks. That approach was also endorsed by Mr Major when he spoke to his MPs and peers yesterday morning, but he added: "There can be no question of negotiations, concessions, partial solutions or linkage to other issues. The whole international community has made it clear that Iraq has to withdraw from Kuwait totally and unconditionally."

The question of linking an Iraqi withdrawal with other Middle East issues was raised again in France yesterday when the foreign minister Roland Dumas called for an international conference on the region. Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the defence minister, also hinted that Kuwait's borders might be redrawn if Iraq pulled out.

M. Dumas told the parliament of the Western European Union that "a global regulation" of Middle Eastern problems would have to follow hard on the heels of resolution of the Gulf confrontation. France, he said, regarded an international conference as the ideal way of tackling that. M. Chevènement said on French television: "There is a territorial dispute and a financial dispute. Some good geographers have already studied what could be the shape of frontiers that are mostly very recent. There is a matter here for discussion."

President Saddam Hussein has frequently called for a conference linking the future of Kuwait with other issues, such as the Palestinian question. The remarks of the two French ministers will therefore cause concern among the Western allies. Mr Hurd was at pains in Brussels to urge close co-operation to ensure that Iraq did not try to split the international alliance, particularly over hostages.

Iraq yesterday announced that all 3,300 Russian contract workers would be allowed to leave the country from today. The decision came after Moscow threatened to deploy forces in the region if any of its nationals were mistreated.

King's pledge, page 7
French compromise, page 10
Leading article, page 13

Commons to launch 'supergun' enquiry

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

A PARLIAMENTARY enquiry will be launched later this month into the government's handling of the export licence for steel tubes destined for the Iraqi supergun.

Charges against two businessmen were dropped last month, clearing the way for a trade and industry committee enquiry. The committee has gathered written evidence since April from the firms which made the steel tubes, including Sheffield Forgemasters. But the MPs decided not to hold public hearings while prosecutions were pending. Nicholas Rid-

ley and Peter Lilley, the former and current trade and industry secretaries, are likely to be called to give evidence next month.

The enquiry will set out to determine the Department of Trade's involvement and knowledge of the production of the steel tubes. Sir Hal Miller, Conservative MP for Bromsgrove, is also expected to be questioned over his allegations that officials were warned two years ago about the possible nature of the order placed with the Halesowen firm Walter Somers.

Cold War echo to legion's new desert songs

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN HAVER EL-BATIN

SHADES of P.C. Wren's novel *Beau Geste* linger in the eastern desert of Saudi Arabia as hard-faced French foreign legionnaires from more than 60 nations sit nightly under the stars in Bedouin tents singing loud and strangely moving laments of lost loves, past campaigns and death.

But the composition, if not the ethos of the legion, one of the toughest units in the multinational force now facing Iraq, has changed. Today's recruits come from the liberated nations of Eastern Europe and within a year they will have replaced English-speakers as the largest minority in the 8,000-strong legion.

soldier of France, entirely amenable to martial law, without any appeal whatsoever. Your friends cannot buy you out, and your consul cannot help you. For five years, nothing but death can remove you from the legion."

The rawest recruit in the detachment, based about 60 miles from the nearest Iraqi troops, is an 18-year-old Romanian who lost his father in last December's revolution and whose mother died a few months later.

Others may well have been members of the feared Securitate secret police looking for a haven from retribution.

Colonel Yves Derville, commander of the Second Foreign Infantry Regiment based in Nîmes, said: "The legion has a tradition of not asking

Ceausescu or pro-Ceausescu, and we do not care."

Once accepted, a recruit is given a new identity which he may later abandon. He forswears the right to marry for ten years and takes a crash course in French. In the Saudi desert he wears a green beret; the traditional white kepi is reserved for ceremonial occasions and the monthly pay day.

During 24 hours spent in the field with the legion, I met at least eight Britons whose main common bond, apart from language, was an impatience to see combat. Among them was Corporal Gavin Allen, a 15-year veteran who joined in 1975 after leaving Wormwood Scrubs prison. "Why I was there was my business,

but I have a duty."

"Justice problems" affect some 30 per cent of legionnaires. The others who join are mainly professional soldiers looking for more glamorous action, adventures and those escaping family problems or trying to forget a broken love affair.

Any suggestion that they might be mercenaries are made at the legion's peril. All legionnaires have the right to French citizenship after five years of service and fight under the tricolour which flies prominently over their desert camp. They combine a tough, killer image (much to evidence during their close-combat sessions in the sands) with a provision of home comforts which has helped to keep

Abolition of poll tax not ruled out, Heseltine told

By DOUGLAS BROOM AND NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN Major has told Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, that he does not rule out the complete abolition of the poll tax.

The two men met for half an hour last night to discuss tactics in today's critical debate on a policy that Mr Heseltine bitterly opposed during his time in the political wilderness. The prime minister told Mr Heseltine that "no options were barred", according to senior government sources.

Mr Heseltine will today try to buy time over the future of the poll tax when he returns to the Commons dispatch box after an absence of nearly five years. It emerged after his meeting that the confirmation of grant allocations to councils would be delayed to give time for the promised community charge review to be completed.

to reflect the income of those liable to pay. "Only a commitment to abolish the tax will meet the needs of the nation," he said. Mr Hattersley joined his colleagues in highlighting divisions among senior members of the government over the poll tax.

David Blunkett, the shadow local government minister, said that the new environment team headed by Mr Heseltine included staunch defenders of the community charge as well as outspoken opponents. "The whole place is riddled with differences of opinion about what to do with the poll tax," he said. "On the one hand, Mr Heseltine says he wants change, but his local government minister, Michael Portillo, is on record as saying it is the fairest means of local taxation."

Tories get new call to unity

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

IN HIS first address to the party faithful Mr Major set out a personal political credo offering his party flexible, commonsense Conservatism which was willing to adjust policies which did not work.

He stressed, too, the importance of compassion and used notably more moderate language about Europe than Margaret Thatcher, to whom he paid lavish tribute. Mr Major warned Conservatives that without unity they would never achieve the success they had achieved under Mrs Thatcher.

In a clear signal to constituency associations to call off any action planned against MPs who supported Michael Heseltine in the leadership contest, the new prime minister urged his party to reject back-biting, recriminations and post-mortems, saying: "There is too much at stake. We have an election to win."

He also threw his weight behind John Taylor, the black prospective candidate whose selection for Cheltenham has

Race dispute, page 2
Norman Tebbit, page 12
Leading article, page 13
Photograph, page 24

INSIDE
Thatcher defended

Sir Alan Walters (above), the former economic adviser to Margaret Thatcher, claims today that Sir Geoffrey Howe or Nigel Lawson played a part in press reports designed to discredit Mrs Thatcher. Professor Walters cites reports that the ministers had threatened to resign to force Mrs Thatcher to accept the conditions for entry to the exchange rate mechanism but he claims that the conditions originated with Mrs Thatcher. Page 12

Blakelock review
The Court of Appeal is to be asked to consider new evidence on the mental condition of Engin Rahip, one of the three men convicted for the murder of PC Keith Blakelock in 1985. Page 3

Kasparov wins
Gary Kasparov the World chess champion won the marathon 16th game against Anatoly Karpov in Lyons to lead the world championship by 8½ points to 7½. Page 6

Security alert
Security in the streets of Buenos Aires was stepped up in preparation for President Bush's visit to Argentina after the failed coup. Page 11

Gatt hope
The European Community showed serious signs of cracking under world pressure last night after a majority of EC countries including Britain pushed for "a fresh approach" to European farm subsidies to save the Gatt round of trade talks. Page 24

Job losses
GEC expects to shed 6,000 jobs because of defence spending reductions and delays, and the impact of tightening economic conditions. Page 25

INDEX	
Arts	20-22
Births, marriages, deaths	15
Business	25-31
Chess	5
Court & social	14
Crosswords	15-24
Law reports	37
Leading articles	13
Letters	13
Media	16, 17, 19
Obituaries	14
Property	35-36
Sport	38-42
TV & radio	23

Aga Khan boycotts British racing

By RICHARD EVANS

THE Aga Khan, one of the most successful owner-breeders of racehorses in the world, announced yesterday that he will cease to have horses trained or raced in Britain until the Jockey Club changes its drug testing procedures.

His decision was announced less than two weeks after his horse, Alyssa, was disqualified from first place in the Epsom classic. Alyssa was disqualified after the Jockey Club decided that the source of a chemical by-product, 3-hydroxycamphor, found in a post-race urine sample was camphor, a prohibited substance. An international team of experts hired by the Aga had proved that it could have come from foodstuffs or stable bedding.

Ninety horses presently in training with Michael Stoute and Luca Cumani in Newmarket will be moved to other trainers employed by the Aga in France, Ireland and the United States.

The Aga, who has twice before successfully challenged allegedly positive tests for illegal medication said he will not race in Britain until "such time as effective measures have been instituted to correct the flawed equine drug testing procedures and the administration of the rules sanctioning the use of prohibited substances in racing in this country."

A racing dynasty, page 41
The Aga's decision, page 42

Soviet Union to get EC food aid

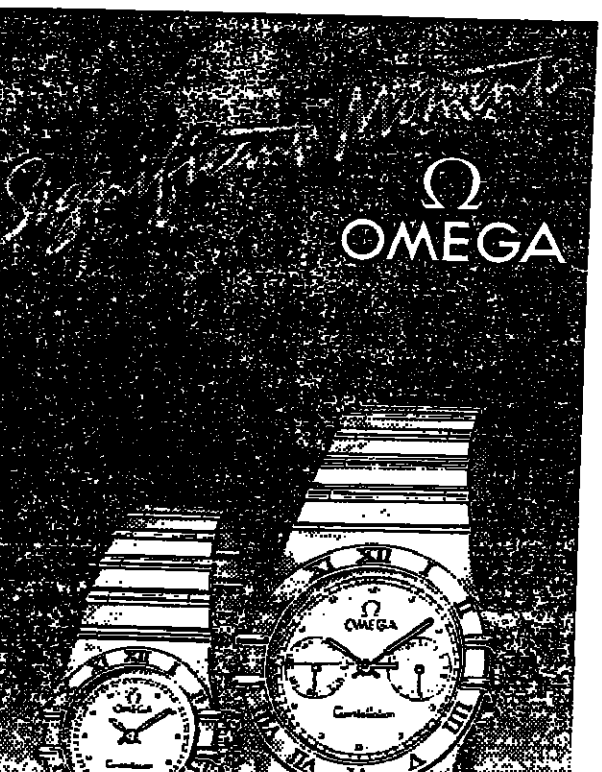
From MICHAEL BIVON IN BRUSSELS

THE European Community is preparing to send large quantities of surplus food to the Soviet Union, but is demanding that it must be properly distributed and must reach those who are hungry. German food is already going into the Soviet Union under armed guard, German sources said.

In response to pleas from Moscow to the Community for urgent humanitarian aid, EC foreign ministers agreed yesterday that food convoys must soon start rolling. A formal go-ahead is expected to be given at the Rome summit.

Britain, which has taken a sceptical view of reports of impending famine, now accepts that some short-term aid is essential. "We believe that where people are hungry and deprived of food, then food should be supplied," Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said yesterday.

In response to a demand firmly expressed by France, The Netherlands and es-



Black market war, page 9

OMEGA CONSTELLATION.
THE WATCH SOLD AT LEADING JEWELLERS
AROUND THE WORLD.

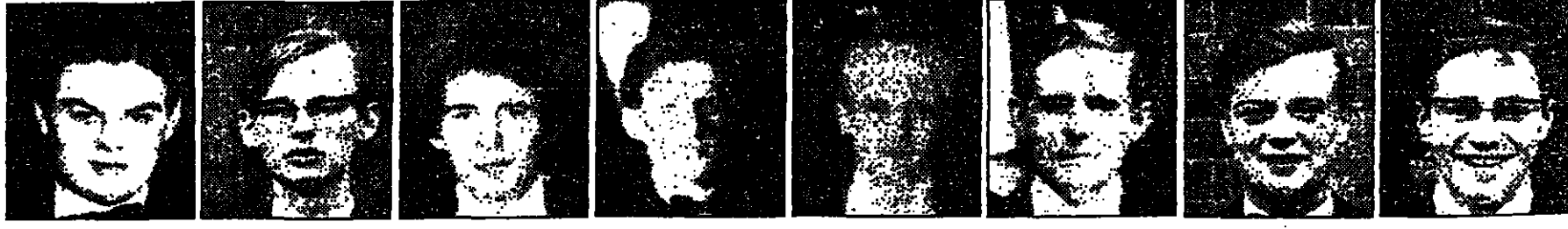
Gilded youth of Oxbridge loosens the bond with Toryism

By ALAN HAMILTON

RONALD Reagan received two conflicting invitations to address the *jeunesse dorée* of Britain today, one from the Oxford union and the other from the Cambridge union. Cambridge won, probably because it is celebrating its 175th anniversary, or possibly because George Shultz spoke there recently and returned with encouraging reports of the undergraduates' attention span.

In this supposed new era of classless politics, however, led by a prime minister whose university was the streets of Brixton, will Mr Reagan's audience be the gilded youth of today that matures into the government of tomorrow? Have not the Oxbridge unions, traditional forgers of high Toryism, had their day?

John Major's cabinet contains five former presidents of the Cambridge union (Messrs Hurd, Howard, Lamont, Clarke and Gummer) and four who held equivalent office at Oxford (Messrs Heseltine, Newton, Brooke and Waldegrave). They



From Oxbridge to high office: politicians who honed their skills as presidents of their respective unions include, from left, Messrs Lamont, Gummer, Waldegrave, Newton, Heseltine, Brooke, Clarke and Howard. While the posts have launched some glittering cabinet careers, today, undergraduate links with Toryism are less pronounced

are all men of an earlier student generation, though. Today, neither union is dominated by the output of English public schools. Both have fallen to a concerted invasion from Scotland.

Oliver Campbell (Edinburgh Academy) is the present president of the Oxford union, reading law with ambitions towards advocacy. He has, he says, no burning political career plans.

Martin Harris (George Watson's, Edinburgh and Glenalmond) presides over the Cambridge union when he is not reading history with hopes of

entering the Foreign Office. His politics, he says, are "wishy-washy middle of the road".

Next term, both unions will display a further flight from outmoded tradition. Jacob Rees-Mogg, regarded as the epitome of high Toryism (Eton, and son of a former editor of *The Times*) was recently defeated in the Oxford presidential election by Damian Hinds, a considerably lower Tory from a state school in Manchester. Next term's Cambridge president, Mark Scott-Fleming (Stewart's Melville, Edinburgh) is a committed Labour party man,

as is his incoming vice-president and secretary.

Both unions have in the past been closely — too closely, many feel — associated with their respective university Conservative associations; both presidents deny that this is any longer the case. At Oxford, Mr Campbell claims that, after a concerted effort to improve the facilities and the finances, the union has three-quarters of the undergraduate population in membership, and their range of backgrounds and political views reflects the ever-widening intake of the university.

At Cambridge, Mr Harris claims about half the student body as members. He agrees that in the recent past the union was more or less in bed with the Conservative association, but no longer. Last year, for the first time, Cambridge admitted more undergraduates from state schools than from private education.

Mr Harris waved a hand around his premises, which looked like any other student union, with a bar and seating more functional than opulent. "Thirty years ago this place would have been an elitist gentlemen's

club, with vast leather armchairs and bellhops to summon a waiter. Look at it now."

For all their demotic tendencies, neither union is at present well represented on the Labour front bench — another area subject to severe Celtic infiltration. Michael Foot and Tony Benn are both Oxford ex-presidents, while Greville Janner and Jack Ashley held the equivalent light blue honour. However, it is the unions of Edinburgh and Glasgow whose debating skills hold sway in the shadow cabinet now. And yet, Cambridge and

Oxford still have sufficient cachet to attract the best speakers. The former has recently heard Norman Tebbit, Bryan Gould, Paddy Ashdown, Henry Kissinger, Desmond Tutu, Jimmy Carter and the Princess Royal. Cambridge has done marginally less well recently, with George Shultz, Helen Suzman, Michael Howard, the Archbishop of York and Ludovic Kennedy. They rely on Reagan to level the score.

Both, too, increasingly attract sponsorship, largely from newspapers (including this one) and prospective employers of the talent on display, such as leading law firms. Mr Reagan appears today by courtesy of the *International Herald Tribune*. Oxford's greatest financial coup was to pull in a donation of £1 million from Mitsubishi Trust and Banking.

Past presidents, it is said, take ten years to bloom in public life. Perhaps some cabinet minister early next century will recall hearing Ronald Reagan speak today.

Tory leaders move swiftly to back black candidate

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major and other senior Conservatives acted last night to quell a damaging race dispute by disowning protests by party activists over the choice of a black Tory parliamentary candidate.

The prime minister and Chris Patten, the Tory chairman, swung the full weight of the party machine behind John Taylor, who has been selected as the prospective candidate for Cheltenham in the face of some local opposition.

Mr Major said: "As long as I am privileged to lead our party it will never become an exclusive club. Racist remarks aimed at the man who is tipped to be the first black Tory MP were 'not sentiments that have any place in our party'."

After Mr Major's pledge to create a classless society there is anger and embarrassment among Conservative MPs and at Conservative Central Office at the outburst from a local party member, Bill Galbraith, who was reported as calling Mr Taylor, a former adviser to the Home Office, a "bloody nigger".

Mr Patten suggested the remarks were repellent, and Mr Major used a speech to Tories in London to state that everyone should be able to go as far as their talent, ambition and effort took them; there should be no artificial barriers on grounds of background, religion or race. Then he went to the Commons to denounce the reported objections as "not sentiments that have any place in our party".

Mr Galbraith, who tried to block Mr Taylor's adoption, was reported as saying the people of Cheltenham wanted a local man and not "a nigger from Birmingham". Although Mr Galbraith, a cousin of the Earl of Strathclyde, said yesterday the remarks were made in private and that he had been misquoted, he admitted: "I did say we would not let bloody niggers into this town."

Last night Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, urged Mr Major to expel Mr Galbraith.

Mr Patten wrote congratulating Mr Taylor on his selection as candidate and wishing him every success. "I know how much work you have done for the party over many years and I well understand why your qualities commended themselves to the Cheltenham association," he said.

Mr Patten told BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* that Mr Taylor was selected on merit. "I do not think that anybody has any time at all for the rather repellent views of a minority in our society." Asked if there were consequences where racist views were widely represented, Mr Patten replied: "There are people embracing every political creed who have views on race that make Alf Garnett seem like a screaming liberal."

Mr Taylor again brushed aside

the candidacy row. "I am not worried about that. I have a job to do, it is a very enjoyable job and that is getting to know the people of Cheltenham." Mr Taylor said there was "definitely no question" about the support of the Cheltenham Tory association, which had selected him from 250 hopefuls in a hard-fought competition. He later added: "You will always get people in society whose vision does not extend beyond the end of their noses. Frankly I feel sorry for people like that."

Sir Charles Irving, the retiring MP for Cheltenham, challenged Mr Galbraith to write a "total and unqualified apology" for his disgusting remarks.

Galbraith 'will back Taylor if he wins'

By PETER VICTOR

WILLIAM Galbraith, who called John Taylor, the Conservative candidate, a "bloody nigger", said yesterday that he would "shake Mr Taylor by the hand" and back him to the hilt if he won the Cheltenham seat.

Given that Mr Taylor is said by all who have met him to be "a very nice man", it is likely that he will be willing to bury the hatchet. The furore raised by Mr Galbraith's words, however, is unlikely to subside quickly. The dispute, according to one Cheltenham councillor, has reinforced public perception of the town as "Colonel Blimpville" and "a white elephant's graveyard".

Sir Charles Irving, the present Cheltenham MP, demanded a public apology and Mr Galbraith's resignation from the party. Mr Galbraith's response to these demands was "bloody rubbish". He said, however, "If Mr Taylor is elected I will give him my whole-

hearted support." He did not believe that would happen, he added, because the electorate favoured a local man.

He also refused to resign, saying it was up to the Conservative party to expel him, if it wished. "My family have been Tory grandees for 50 years," he said.

"This whole thing is a storm in a teacup. On Saturday I made a private speech to party members. It should have remained private."

He confirmed that he had described Mr Taylor using the hateful words and added that he would not retract them. "The horrible truth is that, if I had to do the whole thing over, I would say the same again," he said, however, that he would shake Mr Taylor's hand if he was elected as the MP.

Politicians in Cheltenham said that Mr Galbraith's views were those of a tiny minority. "There's a Galbraith in every town in England," Bill Bullingham, the mayor, said. "We've had teenagers

and people in their early 20s saying 'What can we do to help?'. It was true at one time that Cheltenham did have a Colonel Blimp image. That is now out of date. If we didn't want John Taylor we wouldn't have him."

Tue view was not shared by Deborah Griggs, a local Liberal Democrat councillor. Miss Griggs, a school teacher, said that Mr Galbraith's outburst had brought the whole of Cheltenham into disrepute. "This area is already known as an elephant's graveyard. There are a number of us who would like to see that changed and were trying to drag Cheltenham kicking and screaming into the 1980s at least."

Most members of the public said that Mr Taylor's colour was not important. Roger Eccles, aged 76, a former London Transport traffic manager, said: "I like the look of Mr Taylor, but he could cost the Tories the seat anyway. His colour doesn't have anything to do with it, but people would

prefer a local man. That's the objection I have."

An elderly couple from The Park, on the outskirts of Cheltenham, who were reluctant to be identified said they thought Taylor faced a tough job. "It doesn't matter that he is not local. How many MPs out of the 600-odd actually live in their constituency? His problem is that Cheltenham is very white."

Cheltenham is genteel and relatively prosperous. Unemployment stands at 3.1 per cent, 94 per cent of the housing is owner-occupied and of the 85,000-strong population, 21 per cent is retired, according to the national census of 1981. More than the national average of people are in the upper social classes.

The general view of local people was that Mr Taylor would have a better chance in Gloucester, where there is a larger black population. The total number of Caribbean people in the Cheltenham area was less than 200 in 1981.



William Galbraith, who stands by his words, at his Cheltenham home yesterday

Killer of siege girl to seek an appeal

By CRAIG SETON

A MAN convicted of killing his girl friend by using her as a shield in a siege in which she was fatally shot by police is to ask the home secretary to re-open his case. The move comes after a judge's claim that West Midlands police suppressed a critical report on the incident for ten years.

David Pagett served seven years in prison for the manslaughter of 16-year-old Gail Kinchin, who was pregnant when she was accidentally shot by officers in Birmingham in 1981. He was convicted in 1981 and his solicitor said yesterday that the verdict might have been different if the contents of a confidential West Midlands police report on the siege had been known.

The existence of the report became known only in October when Miss Kinchin's mother, Josephine Wood, sued West Midlands police in the High Court in Birmingham for negligence over her daughter's death. The five-and-a-half page document, prepared in 1980, was critical of the police operation but was marked for internal use only. When Mrs Wood's claim resumed on Monday, Mr Justice Hodgson found that West Midlands police had been negligent and awarded her £8,155 in damages and costs. He said that the force had suppressed the confidential memo and he called for an enquiry.

Pagett, aged 41, is at present serving a seven-year sentence for rape. His solicitor, Ivan Giffin, said yesterday that the police report had been withheld from Pagett's trial at Birmingham Crown Court and when he failed in an appeal. "I have written to the home secretary to ask if he plans to refer Mr Pagett's case back to the Court of Appeal. The Crown is supposed to disclose to the defence any evidence which may be relevant."

West Midlands police said last night that it was considering how to respond to Mr Justice Hodgson's remarks.

Police enquiry, page 24

Mistake theory on terrorist killing

A 30-YEAR-old Protestant man shot dead by republican paramilitaries in Co Londonderry on Monday night was almost certainly not the intended victim, police believe (Edward Gorman writes).

David Shiels, who worked in a bakery, was killed at about 10.30pm outside his mobile home in Crew Road, Maghera. The caravan and Mr Shiels's car were riddled with bullets. His wife Gladys and their four-week-old son Stephen were slightly injured by falling debris inside their home.

Police were questioning two men arrested in the Maghera area after the shooting. Detectives were thought to be working on the theory that Mr Shiels had been mistaken for his brother, an RUC member who used to live in the caravan. The family appealed for no retaliation for the killing.

Nissan pay deal under inflation

Nissan car workers last night became the first big bargaining group in the motor industry to accept a below inflation pay deal in the autumn wage round (Kevin Eason writes).

The Japanese company also refused to offer an inflation-linked deal similar to the one that forced Ford into a 13.4 per cent wage increase for its 32,000 manual workers last month. The 2,750 Nissan workers at Washington, Tyne and Wear, voted to accept 9.5 per cent in the first stage of a two-year deal starting next month, with another 7 per cent from January, 1992.

Arrest damages

A miner who fainted from pain while being arrested on a picket line during the 1984 pit strike won £7,000 compensation from South Wales police yesterday. A jury at the High Court in Cardiff found that excessive force had been used by police on Jeffrey Coombes, aged 43, during his arrest at the Margam steel works, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan. The jury found against Mr Coombes's claim that he had been unlawfully arrested and falsely imprisoned.

Lesson not learnt

The standard of written English among nearly 5,000 service school children in Germany should be higher, according to the school inspectors. In a report yesterday they said that too many lessons were taken by staff not qualified to teach English.

£5m tunnel bonus

Transmanche Link, the Anglo-French consortium building the Channel tunnel, has received a £5 million bonus for linking the British and French sections of the service tunnel two weeks ahead of schedule.

Enquiry demand

A High Court judge at Durham crown court yesterday demanded an enquiry into the running of the city's prison after he sentenced Ken Carter, a 20-year-old inmate, to life for the murder of his cellmate, Darren Brook, aged 19.

Boat-raising help

An oil industry support vessel with divers is to help to raise the fishing boat *Antares*, sunk in the Firth of Clyde by the submarine *Trenchant*. Attempts to recover the bodies of four fishermen run into difficulties because of inadequate naval equipment.

The chief looks in

Kenneth Baker, the new home secretary, watched police reaction from a central London control room yesterday as officers failed an armed raid on a West End jewellers in which raiders fired shots. Police recovered £500,000 gems and detained two men.

Boost in Scotland for health and education

By KERRY GILL

GOVERNMENT spending in Scotland will rise by 11 per cent for the coming year from less than £10 billion to slightly more than £11 billion, including increased allocations to health, housing and education, Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, said last night.

Although the total was disclosed at the time of the chancellor's autumn statement, details were withheld until Mr Lang's statement to Parliament. He said that in spite of having to take tough decisions in the interests of the economy more money was being earmarked for the environment.

Mr Lang said the settlement should remove the need for any significant increase in poll tax levels next year. He said: "I believe it was right to give priority to off-setting the effects on community charge payers of high spending by Scottish local authorities, but it has inevitably meant that the increases I can afford for my other programmes are lower than I would have wished."

The money allocated to the new Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, set for establishment next April will be £477 million. Scottish Enterprise will receive £406 million, with £226 million of this for training, while Highlands and Islands Enterprise will get £71 million, of which £13 million is for training.

Mr Lang said that the health programme would get £3.3 billion, an 11 per cent increase. That meant that planned spending on the NHS in Scotland would be 38 per cent higher in real terms than in 1979. The money would enable continued progress with reforms in management while maintaining patient care.

"These additions to the pro-



Lang: Right to offset effects on community charge payers

gramme are particularly significant given that expenditure per head on health is already over 20 per cent above comparable expenditure in England," Mr Lang said.

One of the largest increases will be on the environment, where Mr Lang is to enhance the water and sewerage programme by 17 per cent to £166 million and £238 million within three years.

The education budget will provide for rising numbers of students at universities and colleges and for extra resources needed to improve school buildings. In housing, funding for Scottish Homes increases by 10 per cent. Mr Lang confirmed that work on upgrading the A74 link with England to motorway standard would be kept up. Schemes to complete dual carriageway work on the A9 Perth to Stirling section and the A94 Perth to Aberdeen route would also be started, and work on the central Scotland motorway network and A96 Aberdeen to Inverness route would continue. There were no new initiatives announced, however.

Approval granted for 56 NHS trusts

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE government yesterday decided to keep up the momentum of its NHS reforms and take the "high risk option" of approving all but ten of the hospitals that had applied to become self-governing trusts from next April.

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, announced that 56 of the 66 hospitals in the final list of applicants for trust status would go ahead. The rejected ten, which include St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's and Harfield hospitals, would be considered, along with a further 111 applicants, to become

self governing in April 1992, he told the Commons. The successful applicants include acute hospitals, ambulance services, mental health and community units.

Mr Waldegrave added that NHS trusts, which can set their own pay rates and borrow from the private sector, would become "the natural model" for units providing patient care. "Trusts will have wide-ranging and significant powers of self-determination which will enable them to deliver high quality patient care and to provide greater job satisfaction."

Mr Waldegrave decided to push ahead with a high number of trusts in spite of advice from Coopers & Lybrand, the management consultants, and Sheila Masters, the NHS finance director, that many could prove financially unviable. It is understood that many of the applications were not financially robust and depended on big amounts of capital expenditure.

Mr Waldegrave said yesterday that trusts would not be allowed the size of capital spending that they envisaged. Although self-governing hospitals are theoretically allowed to borrow from the private sector, the Treasury will set overall limits. "Inevitably this will involve difficult decisions, as it will not be possible to meet all trusts' capital aspirations next year."

The government also appears to have ignored many of the responses to the local consultation exercise, a large number of which showed strong opposition to the scheme. Mr Waldegrave told the Commons that, in many cases, local consultation was based on printed postcards asking whether people supported hospitals opting out of the NHS.

First 56 NHS trusts approved

Northern RHA
Northumbria Ambulance NHS Trust
Newcastle Mental Health NHS Trust
Newcastle Royal Infirmary NHS Trust
Yorkshire RHA
Leeds City and Area NHS Trust
St James's University Hospital NHS Trust
Bradford Hospitals NHS Trust
Trent RHA
Northern General Hospital NHS Trust
Lincoln Ambulance NHS Trust
Doncaster Royal Infirmary NHS Trust
Hospital NHS Trust
East Anglian RHA
Norfolk Ambulance NHS Trust
Anglian Harbours NHS Trust
East Chichester NHS Trust
Southend Health Care NHS Trust
Royal London Hospital/Associated Companies NHS Trust
Royal Free Hospital NHS Trust
Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital NHS Trust
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust
North Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust
North West Thames RHA
North Hertfordshire NHS Trust
Mount Vernon Hospital NHS Trust
North Essex General Hospital NHS Trust
Central Middlesex Hospital NHS Trust
South East Thames RHA
Guy's and Lewisham NHS Trust
South Western RHA
Lifecare NHS Trust
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust
North Devon General NHS Trust
St Helier NHS Trust
St Helier Community NHS Trust
St Helier Health Care NHS Trust
Royal Surrey County/SL Luke's Hospitals NHS Trust
South Western RHA
Weymouth Area NHS Trust
East Somerset NHS Trust
United Bristol Hospitals NHS Trust
Cornwall Community Healthcare NHS Trust
Cornwall/Isles of Scilly Mental Health NHS Trust
Handicap NHS Trust
South Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust
Wessex RHA
Dorset Health Care NHS Trust
Dorset Health Care NHS Trust
West Dorset Mental Health NHS Trust
West Dorset General Hospital NHS Trust
West Dorset Community Health NHS Trust
Oxford RHA
Hartford Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust
West Midlands RHA
First Community NHS Trust
Mental Health Fund of Mid Staffs NHS Trust
Rugby NHS Trust
Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust
Hewley NHS Trust
Wirral Hospital NHS Trust
Royal Liverpool Liverpool NHS Trust
St Helier/Donkey Hospital NHS Trust
Chester and Macclesfield NHS Trust
Cardiothoracic Centre/Liverpool NHS Trust
Broomfield Hospital NHS Trust
Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital NHS Trust
North Western RHA
Manchester Central Hospital and Community Care NHS Trust
Oxford Hospital NHS Trust

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Blakelock killing conviction referred back to appeal court

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Court of Appeal is to be asked to consider new evidence on the mental condition of Engh Raghup, one of the three men convicted of the murder in 1985 of PC Keith Blakelock.

The decision, announced by Kenneth Baker, the Home Secretary, was met with jubilation by Raghup's family and a call from Lord Scarman, the former law lord, for all three convictions to be reviewed.

The move is the first victory for a long campaign to free the three men in a case that has been surrounded by controversy. Earlier this year the detective chief superintendent in overall charge of the murder investigation was found guilty by a Scotland Yard tribunal of a disciplinary offence over the treatment of a juvenile charged with, but

clear of, the murder. A junior officer is due to go before another tribunal shortly.

Yesterday's announcement follows Home Office scrutiny of the case against the three men after a BBC television investigation earlier this year and representations from MPs and lawyers. Mr Baker, in a Commons written answer yesterday, said there was no grounds to refer back the cases of Winston Silcott or Mark Braithwaite who were convicted with Raghup at the Central Criminal Court in 1987.

PC Blakelock was stabbed and hacked to death by a mob during a riot on the Broadwater estate, north London, in October 1985. According to the Crown, Raghup, from north London, was on the scene at the time of the murder, was carrying a broom-handle and would have struck PC Blakelock if he could have got close.

He was held by police for five days and began to incriminate himself during ten interviews. He had signed away the right to have a solicitor present and was deemed to have committed the murder because he placed himself at the scene with the intention of attacking the constable.

In May this year, BBC television's *Inside Story* series looked at the convictions for the murder and raised questions over the work of Dr Eric Ward, a defence psychologist. Before the trial Dr Ward found that Raghup was of average intelligence.

After the conviction, Dr Giesli Gudjonsson, of the Institute of Psychiatry, looked at Raghup and found that he was in the bottom 5 per cent of the population in terms of intelligence. Raghup was described on the programme as having a low intelligence, being close to mentally handicapped and unable to read or write. He was said to be highly suggestible.

When Raghup originally appealed the judges dismissed the new evidence because of Dr Ward's work. This year in the programme Dr Ward said that his report was mistaken and that data had been misinterpreted.

In his comments yesterday, Mr Baker said: "The psychologist now says that in the light of subsequent tests carried out by another psychologist he now regards the assessment he made as mistaken."

"He now takes the view that had he at the time of the trial been aware of the later findings of another psychologist whose tests were carried out in what he regards as more appropriate circumstances than those which he himself had encountered, he would have agreed that Mr Raghup possessed a significant degree of mental incapacity, suggestibility and compliance."

Mr Baker said the change of mind amounted to new material which should go to the Court of Appeal.

Safety on roads a matter of social conscience

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A CHRISTMAS campaign against drinking and driving designed to exploit the social conscience of potential offenders was launched by Christopher Chope, the roads minister, yesterday.

The centrepiece of the £1 million campaign will be a 40-second television advertisement showing a girl aged six listening to her mother shouting at her father after his drinking and driving has led to the death of a child. Because the advertisement could disturb young children, the Independent Broadcasting Authority will not allow it to be broadcast before 9pm.

In sharp contrast to previous Christmas campaigns, most of which have been directed at young drivers, the present campaign is being aimed at male drivers in the 35-50 age bracket, where the incidence of drink-driving offences has been increasing steadily in recent years.

During the 1980s, the number of people killed in drink-drive accidents was reduced by half to less than 1,000. In spite of the overall change in attitudes, however, Mr Chope said that there were still people willing to risk the consequences, which went a long way beyond a big fine, inevitable loss of licence, and all that would involve.

Drinking and driving wrecks people's lives: not only the lives of innocent victims and their families, but also the lives of the family of the drink-driver himself," he said.

More flexible opening hours for public houses could end the reign of the lager lout,



Grist warning: Cheryl Cole, who lost her husband in a drink-driving accident, speaking at the campaign launch yesterday, which is aimed at men aged 35 to 50

a leading academic expert on the causes of hooliganism said yesterday.

Peter Marsh, a social psychologist from Oxford polytechnic, said that Britain's

streets late at night. He urged the government to test longer licensing hours, or even 24-hour licensing.

New ways home, page 18

Gulf fears cause plunge in tours to Israel

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

THE Gulf emergency has cut tourist visits to Israel by more than 40 per cent, travel companies said last night. They have had to cancel tours and lay off staff.

Inter-Church Travel, which would normally take about 50 pilgrims to the Holy Land this Christmas, has cancelled all tours to Israel as a direct result of the Gulf emergency.

Pilgrimages make up a fifth of the annual traffic to Israel from Britain, but according to figures from the Israel tourist office in London, tourism from Britain is 45 per cent down on last year. The office is appealing for Jewish organisations to organise missions.

Petitions, a specialist travel agent which takes 20,000 tourists and pilgrims to Israel each year, has almost no forward bookings. The company normally expects 40 per cent of next year's business to be booked by now, and has laid off 10 per cent of its staff.

According to Longwood Holidays, November bookings for holidays in Israel were 24 per cent down on last year.

The president of the Anglican Association has published a wide-ranging criticism of the General Synod of the Church of England. Canon Roy Porter, emeritus professor of theology at Exeter university, says the synod machinery produces a confrontational atmosphere and "the skilled operator can manipulate its proceedings to delay, confuse and derail business".

Professor Porter, questions whether the model of democratic parliamentary government is best for the church.

£46,000 damages for unplanned baby

By DAVID YOUNG

A HEALTH authority is to pay £46,000 damages to a mother who was driven to thoughts of suicide by the birth of an unplanned fourth baby after a sterilisation operation.

Linda Lewington reached a settlement in the High Court yesterday on the second day of her damages action over the birth of her daughter, Charlotte, in July 1986, in spite of having an operation two years earlier at Rush Green hospital in Romford, east London.

Mrs Lewington, aged 38, said that she considered taking a drug overdose because of the emotional and financial strain, but that her third child, Suzanne, had followed her around, saying: "Don't leave me, Mummy, we will make you better", which made her decide against it.

Peter Latham, her counsel, told Mr Justice Rose that Mrs Lewington had reached agreement with the Barking, Havering and Brentwood health authority, which is responsible for the hospital. The authority had accepted it must

pay damages but had contested the amount. Mrs Lewington, of Hornchurch, east London, will also recover her costs, and has already been paid £15,000 of the award.

Mrs Lewington said that, after having three children, she had a sterilisation operation in April 1984. In November 1985, she found she was pregnant, but turned down an offer of a termination because she was opposed to abortion. She had to give up a full-time job as a telephoneist for a time, and financial problems became so bad that, at one time, the family had difficulty in getting enough to eat.

After Charlotte's birth, she was horrified to find herself pregnant again, in spite of taking the contraceptive pill. She miscarried and underwent a second sterilisation operation.

Mrs Lewington claimed for the cost of bringing up Charlotte, now four, and also sought damages for pain and suffering and the cost of extending the family home.

New curbs on TV bidders

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

KENNETH Baker, the home secretary, yesterday introduced additional cross-media ownership restrictions to the Broadcasting Act, preventing bidders for ITV franchises from owning more than one large regional licence.

The Home Office has ruled that the nine largest Channel 3 licensees, in terms of national advertising revenue, can own outright any of the six smaller regional franchises. The large companies will be restricted to 20 per cent of one other "large" licence. It also scrapped continuity rules, which would prevent a Channel 3 licensee owning another bordering regional licence.

The secondary legislation, applying to terrestrial television and radio, was introduced yesterday in spite of pressure from the Independent Television Commission to delay it. It wanted the Home Office to consider more carefully whether News International should have to reduce its 50 per cent holding in British Sky Broadcasting to 20 per cent in line with non-EC and cross-media ownership rules for terrestrial and domestic satellite TV.

ITV lists £35m holiday line-up

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

VARIETY will feature strongly in independent television's £35 million Christmas line-up. Ken Dodd, the stand-up comedian, will be back on the London Palladium stage with his first live television spectacular in eight years.

ITV will see in the new year with *The London Palladium: Happy Birthday, Happy New Year*, a two-hour live tribute to the theatre's most famous variety stars, musicals and acts. World-class ice skating is also on display in *Torville and Dean and the Russian All-Stars*.

Special holiday editions of many of ITV's most highly

rated series, including *Taggart* and *El-Cid*, and *Cornwall Street*, will also dominate the schedules. George Baker as Det Chief Inspector Wexford features in a mystery film, *Pur On By Canning*.

ITV will screen the television premiere of the Oscar-winning *My Left Foot*, starring Daniel Day-Lewis as the Irish paraplegic writer Christy Moore.

Dirty Dancing, with Patrick Swayze, Walt Disney's *Pinochio*, and *Beverly Hills Cop II* starring Eddie Murphy, are among other premieres.

Secret Weapon, a drama based on the true story of Mordechai Vanunu, serving an 18-year prison sentence in Israel for revealing that the Israelis were building a nuclear arsenal, stars Karen Allen and Griffin Dunne.

British Sky Broadcasting also released its Christmas schedules yesterday. It will show such successful films as *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*, *A Fish Called Wanda*, *Robocop*, *Rain Man*, *Crocodile Dundee II* and *Good Morning Vietnam*. BSkyB will screen a Christmas special of the cult cartoon series *The Simpsons*.

The BBC Christmas schedules are launched tomorrow.

Media, pages 16-17

Daniel Day-Lewis as Christy Moore

Fast car sales hit red light

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE Eighties boom in the fast car market has skidded to a halt in the recession, with investors facing the prospect of handing over the keys of their Porsches and Ferraris to debt collectors.

Cars this year could be worth as little as a quarter of their 1989 values as some owners, desperate to find cash to pay off loans and keep banks at bay, force a glut of exotic models into auction rooms.

The boom reached its climax last year with record prices set for classic sports models as investors hoped to make a profit every bit as fast as the car.

However, 15 cars worth £5 million languishing in a storage garage last night were symptomatic of the U-turn in the market. The cars were repossessed from victims of high interest rates and the

classic car market and put into storage by the new owners — merchant banks and finance companies.

Allen Cowen, managing director of Storacar, in Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, said the number of cars being repossessed was in full flood. He is storing the cars while decisions are made on whether to sell now and risk losses or hold on until the market revives.

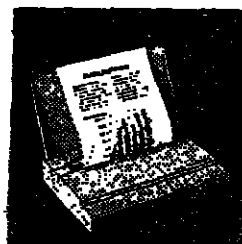
Mr Cowen added: "Exotic vehicles, including one example worth the best part of £1 million, which have been used as collateral to finance business deals and personal investment have been repossessed in considerable numbers." After repossessing the cars, the banks faced the difficulty of "peering into a foggy crystal ball" to try to determine the future course of the market.

Robert Dawkins, car specialist at Phillips auctioneers, said a Ferrari

£300,000 a year ago was now fetching only £100,000 to £150,000. An Aston Martin DB5, worth £106,000 last year would now make only about £20,000 and a Ferrari Boxer, coming up for sale soon would probably bring £50,000 — a quarter of its 1989 value.

He said: "There are significant numbers of cars coming up with no reserve because people are anxious to make a sale."

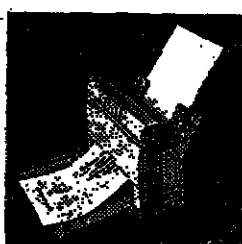
Coyes of Kensington said that too many buyers tried to cash in on last year's boom without realising that their car might have to be a long-term investment. The auction house said: "Those people who read the signs and got out quickly will have made a lot of money. There are also many who did not see what was coming and they now have a vehicle worth considerably less in the short term. They are often the ones who want to



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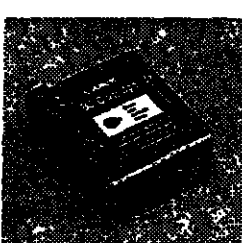
Not much larger than a sheet of A4, it will fit your briefcase with room to spare, and, even with optional rechargeable battery pack, weighs just 4.6lbs (rather less than the average Yellow Pages).



DeskTop

The most remarkable feature, however, is yet to come. Simply clip on the optional automatic sheet feeder, and the BJ-10e becomes one of the world's

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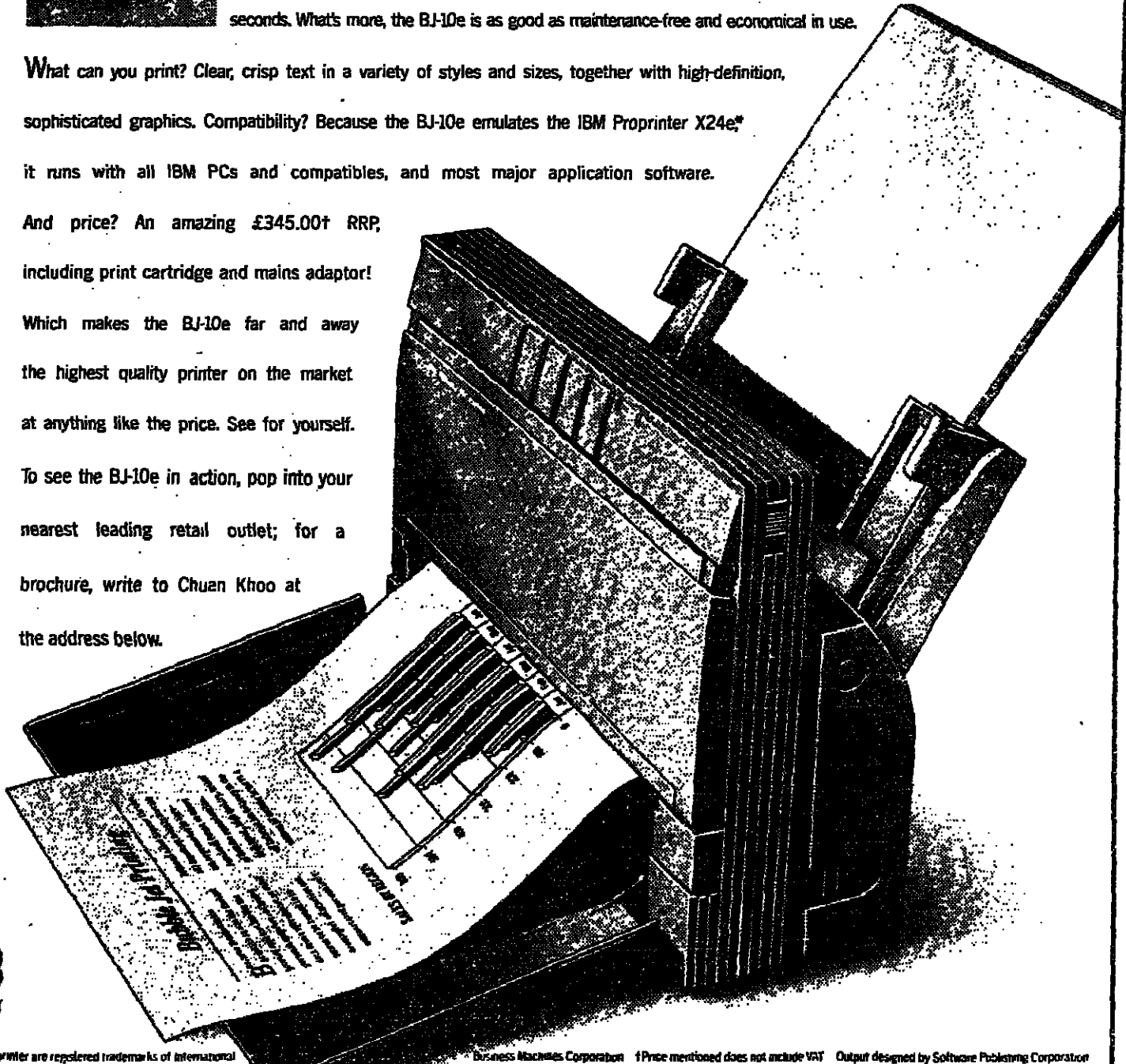
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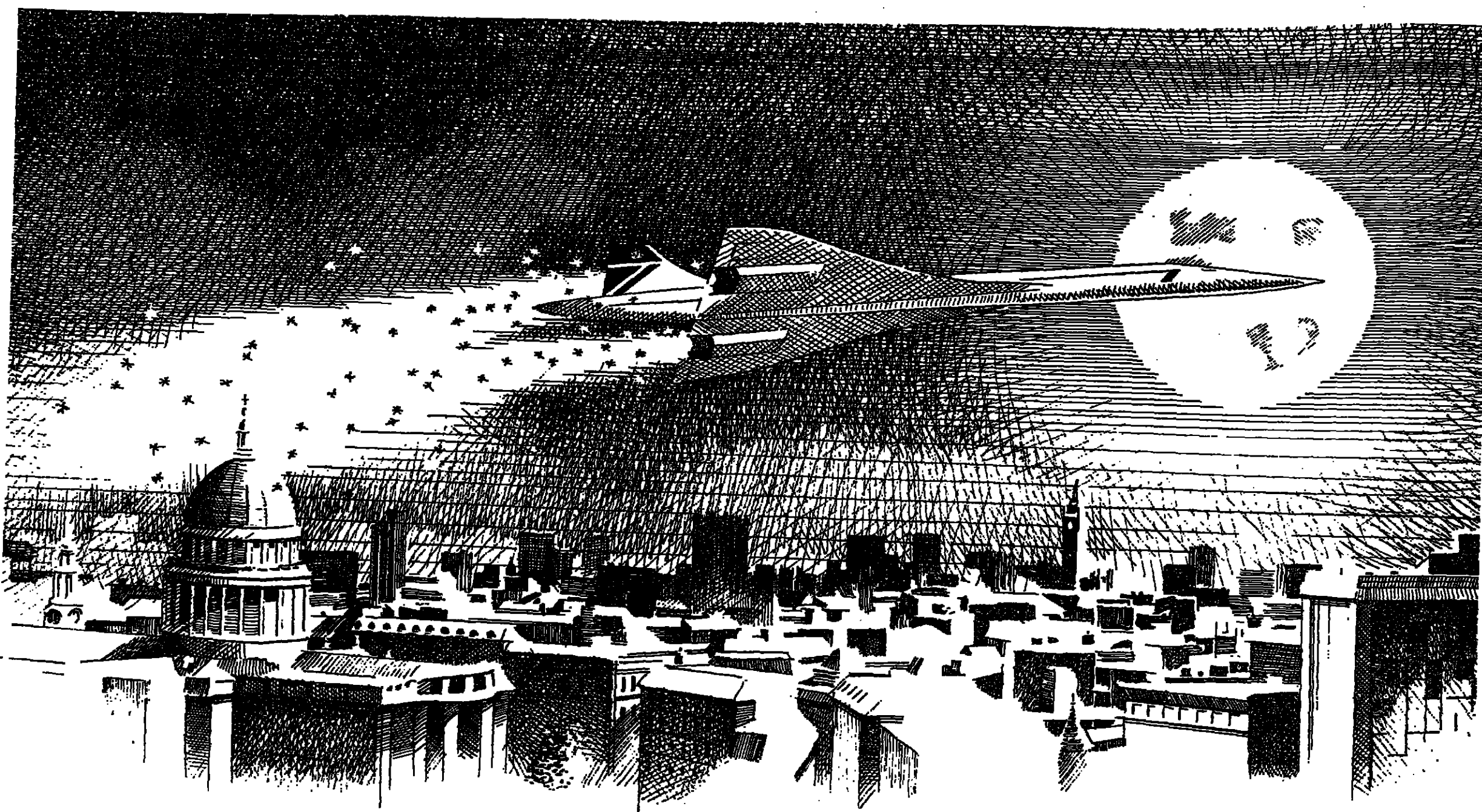
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Changing face of life in Britain

GENERAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY 1988

TRADITIONAL family groupings and social mores continue to alter greatly in Britain, according to the latest General Household Survey, the authoritative picture of life in Britain published yesterday by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys.

Only about a quarter of households consisted of the standard nuclear unit: a couple and their dependent children. One in six families with dependent children was headed by a lone parent, almost always a woman, compared with one in 12 in 1971. One in five unmarried women aged 18-49 was cohabiting, compared with one in ten in 1979. The proportion

of married women at work was 66 per cent, up from 54 per cent in 1973.

The average age at which women married for the first time was up from 21 in 1968 to 23. In general, married and cohabiting women were younger than their partners. Those who had been married before, however, were more likely to choose a younger man. Thirty-three per cent of women in that group had a partner

younger than themselves, compared with 14 per cent of women marrying for the first time.

The average age at which women gave birth to a first child was 24. Women with higher educational qualifications and those from non-manual socioeconomic groups tended to be older than other mothers at the

birth of their first child. The length of time between first and second births was 37 months. The interval increased to 43 months between second and third children.

The survey, compiled from data gathered in 1988 after interviews at about 10,000 households, revealed that men and women were smoking less but drinking more.

Among people aged 16 and over, one in four men and one in ten women consumed more than the recommended amount of alcohol, 21 units a week for men and 14 units for women. Thirty-three per cent of men and 30 per cent of women aged over 16 smoked cigarettes, compared with 52 per cent and 41 per cent respectively

in 1972. The survey found that men and women who smoked heavily were more likely to drink too much as well.

The number of people suffering from long-term illness was shown to have increased from 21 per cent in 1972 to 33 per cent in 1988. For both sexes there was a strong association between levels of chronic sickness and socio-economic status. Such complaints were lowest among the professional group and highest among manual workers.

Twenty-one per cent of adults in Britain owned shares in 1988, the same proportion recorded in the previous year's survey. Shareholders were most frequently middle-aged and middle class. However, those who held shares only in privatised companies tended to have lower incomes than investors as a whole.

REPORTS BY BILL FROST AND NICHOLAS WATT

General Household Survey 1988. (Stationery Office: £16.50)

The nuclear unit goes into decline

THE number of single parent families has increased as the traditional unit goes into decline, the general household survey shows.

Only one-quarter of households consist of married couples and their children. The number of mothers bringing up a family alone has risen to 15 per cent, after remaining steady at 12 per cent since 1983. The proportion of lone fathers remained unchanged at 1 per cent of families with children.

The number of couples living together outside marriage has continued its steady growth, and has doubled in a decade. Unmarried couples who live together are most prevalent in the South-East and East Anglia (21 per cent in both areas). In Wales and Scotland, only 7 per cent and 12 per cent of couples respectively cohabit outside marriage.

The proportion of couples who live together before marriage increased from 4 per cent in the late 1960s to 37 per cent, and was more common among couples in which one or both partners had been married before.

The highest number of illegitimate births, 12 per cent of those registered, was in Greater London while the lowest figure, 9 per cent, was in Scotland.

The proportion of children born to unmarried parents has been

THE FAMILY

rising significantly for more than 20 years, with a particularly steep increase between 1985 and 1987, from 15 per cent to 23 per cent.

The average age of a mother at childbirth was 27. Women with a higher level of education tended to be older at the birth of their first child than those without qualifications.

One in seven women and one in nine men aged between 16 and 59 had been divorced, the survey showed. Men aged 40-49 and women aged 30-49 were the most likely to have been divorced.

The proportion of marriages that end in separation or divorce within a given period has increased. Among women first married between 1960 and 1964, only 4 per cent had divorced within six years, compared with 12 per cent of those who married between 1975 and 1979.

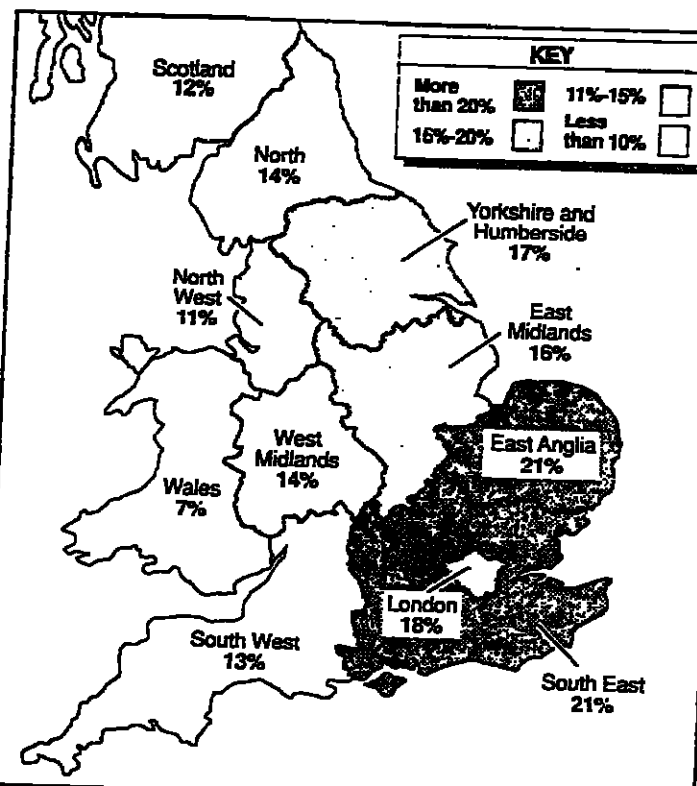
A total of 66 per cent of married women now go out to work, compared to 54 per cent in 1973. There is a similar increase in the number of working married mothers with dependent children.

Provisional figures for 1989 show the trend has continued. The proportion of lone mothers who work has declined.

One-parent families are more



The family unit of married couple and children is declining; the map shows the percentage of unmarried couples living together in 1987-8



Alcohol risk to solo men

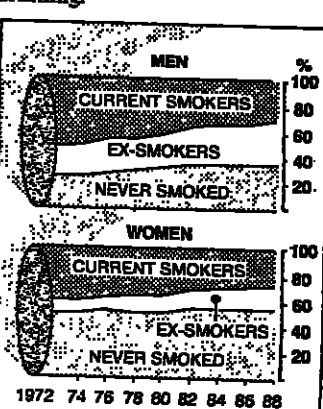
SMOKING & DRINKING

ONE in four men drinks more than he should and one in ten women exceeds the safe level of consumption, the survey shows. Widowed, divorced and separated men are more prone than married men to abuse alcohol. Women drinking more than the "safe" 14 units of drink a week are more likely than men to "understate" the quantity they drink.

Between 1984 and 1988, the years covered by the survey, there was little change in the drinking habits of people aged 18 or over, apart from a slight increase in the number of men exceeding the safe level of consumption, 21 units or more, or about ten pints of beer.

Beer, lager and cider accounted for 71 per cent of men's usual alcohol consumption. Women favoured wine, spirits and liqueurs. Women with higher educational qualifications tended to drink more than those in semi-skilled and unskilled work, and among both sexes alcohol consumption tended to increase with total household income.

Smoking continues to decline, with 33 per cent of men and 30 per cent of women maintaining the habit, against 52 per cent and 41 per cent respectively in 1972. "A strong association" is noted between smoking and excessive drinking.



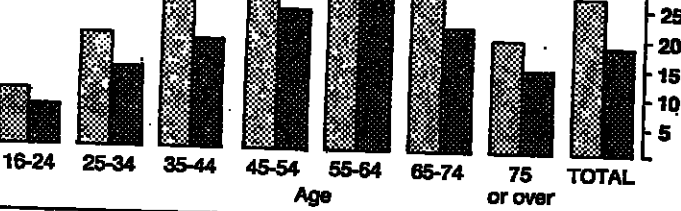
Percentages of smokers, former smokers and non-smokers

Thatcher pledge on course

THE Thatcherite pledge to create a nation of shareholders has had some success, with more than one in five people owning shares, according to the general household survey.

Only 7 per cent of the population owned shares in 1984, the year of the British Telecom privatisation and, while the numbers have since risen by 14 percentage points, Britain's average shareholder remains a middle-class man in his early middle age.

Just 6 per cent of unskilled manual workers interviewed said that they owned shares, compared with 43 per cent of professionals. Almost one-third (30 per cent) of share owners had a weekly income of £250 or more, compared with 14 per cent of all adults.



Who has what: share ownership in Britain by age and sex in 1988

Fitness linked to class

HEALTH

age of 15 reported long-standing illnesses, 15 per cent of unskilled manual workers' daughters did so. A total of 14 per cent of professionals' sons in that age group, however, reported long-standing illness, compared to 21 per cent of sons of unskilled manual workers.

Boys under the age of 15

suffered particularly from respiratory problems. Just under 10 per cent complained of the problem, a figure not overtaken among men until the 65-74 age group, where the problem affected 10.3 per cent of those interviewed.

Almost twice as many women than men visited their doctors, a pattern that was particularly pronounced in the 16-44 age group, where 17 per cent of women and 8 per cent of men did so. The authors of the survey attributed it to women consulting doctors about pregnancy and family planning. The GHS measured people's perception of their health, said by the authors to be important as it related to the demand for the health service better than clinical records.

Forecasts on pension opt-outs 'too low'

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

THE government has underestimated spending on financial incentives for people opting out of state pensions by £5.9 billion, according to a report from the National Audit Office published yesterday.

The report from John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General, shows that four million people decided to take out personal pensions by April 1990, eight times the number predicted by the government.

Since 1988 the option to contract out of the state earnings-related pension scheme to join an occupational pension scheme was extended to allow employees to take out personal pensions. Until April 1993 those who join a new contracted-out pension scheme or take out a personal pension get a flat rate rebate off national insurance contributions, at present 5.8 per cent of earnings, plus a special incentive of 2 per cent of earnings.

The audit office found that the social security department's working assumption was that 500,000 people might take out personal pensions.

The elderly: information requirements for supporting the elderly and implications of personal pensions for the National Insurance Fund, report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (Stationery Office: £6.10)

Scientists face a tough year in search of grants

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS relying on the Science and Engineering Research Council for grants can expect a difficult year, Sir Mark Richmond, the council's chairman, said yesterday.

Faced with finding £40 million of cuts to match the council's income against its expenditure, Sir Mark said that research grants and studentships would have to take the strain during the first year. Other expenditures of the council, on paying salaries, running laboratories, and paying annual subscriptions to international organisations, could not be reduced quickly enough.

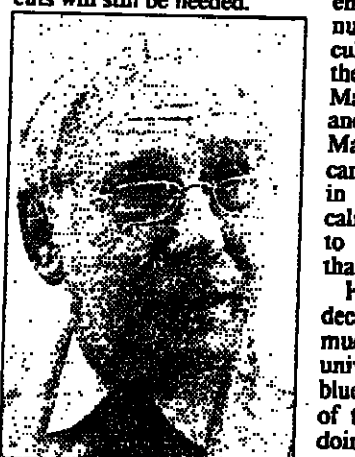
In subsequent years there would have to be deferrals or cancellations of big projects to recover the money for grants and studentships lost this year, he said in an interview with *The Times* on the eve of publication of the council's annual report. That could mean delays for a new eight-metre optical telescope and for a machine to search for gravitational waves. The future of the council's Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory was also being looked at, Sir Mark said. "There should be no stone unturned."

Science faced severe difficulties but not a catastrophe. The problem was that the increases in spending on science announced in the chancellor's autumn statement — £22 million for all the research councils — would not meet increasing costs, even though the Treasury said that they were in line with inflation.

Sir Mark said: "The figures are meticulously correct against their perception of what inflation is, but nobody really believes it buys as much science. The real problem is that a relatively poor public expenditure outcome has been coupled with an under-indexation for inflation and an under-indexation for salaries. We have got to get our spending down by £40 million."

"Our total spending is £440 million, but £100 million of that is locked up in international subscriptions, so effectively we're talking about £340 million from £340 million, which is about 11 per cent."

The council's share of the £22 million announced for science last month, which is expected to be about half, will reduce the damage but heavy cuts will still be needed.



Richmond: "We have got to get our spending down."

"We've put a hold on quite a large number of research grants until we work out how much we've got to save, and how to do it," Sir Mark said. "I've asked the boards of the council to come forward with proposals as to how they would save 10 per cent of their 1992 budgets."

The cries of pain are already to be heard. The chairmen of the nuclear physics and astronomy boards, Alexander Donachie of Manchester University and Arnold Wolfendale of Durham University, give a warning in a letter to *The Times* today of "severe and possibly irreversible damage" from budget constraints.

"The effect on UK science in general will be bad: the effect on our own areas will be singularly so," the two professors say.

Sir Mark agrees that sciences such as astronomy and nuclear physics face difficulties because they spend their money in big blocks. Sir Mark, a molecular biologist and former vice-chancellor of Manchester University, became the council's chairman in October. He believes that calm argument is more likely to convince the government than shrill denunciations.

He said that over the past decade science had fared much better than had the universities. "If you scream blue murder when a large part of the community has been doing much worse, you don't generate many friends."

Letters, page 13

Job-related illnesses strike farmers

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FOUR out of ten farmers suffer from ill-health and injury caused by their work, a survey by the Health and Safety Executive disclosed yesterday.

"The findings of this survey will surprise many as they surprised me," Carl Boswell, the executive's chief agricultural inspector, said at the Royal Smithfield Show at Earl's Court, London, yesterday.

were absent from work as a result of such illness, and 31 per cent had a recurrence of the condition.

The main troubles were diseases caught from animals (35 per cent); broken or amputated limbs and other serious injuries suffered in farm accidents (21 per cent); chest and lung complaints caused by dust (19 per cent); and headaches, nausea and sore throats from handling chemicals.

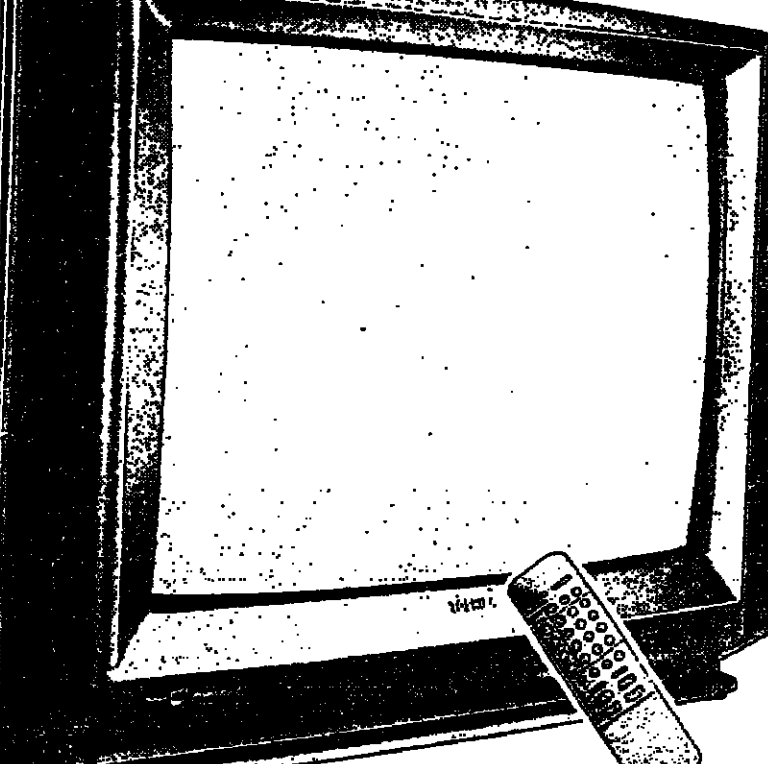
Ringworm, orf (a cattle and sheep

disorders and severe fever and headaches).

Joanna Wattie, a senior medical employment adviser to the executive, said: "One problem is that GPs are seldom trained in occupational health and may not know what to look for." Mr Boswell said he was concerned by the lack of awareness of occupational health hazards on farms and of people trained in first aid.

● An 18-month-old Limousin, Cheshire

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Water chiefs 'tried to cover up poison alert at Camelford'

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE South West Water Authority supplied its customers with poisoned drinking water and then tried to hide the truth, Exeter crown court was told yesterday.

The authority, which has now been succeeded by South West Water plc, denies endangering public health and polluting the river Camel in July 1988 after 20 tonnes of aluminium sulphate were mistakenly emptied into the wrong tank at the Lowermoor treatment works supplying water to the town of Camelford and surrounding villages.

People who drank the water suffered sore mouths and lips, diarrhoea and other symptoms. Some still complain of memory loss and suspect long-term brain damage.

Francis Gilbert, for the prosecution, said: "From top to bottom the story is one of bungling and incompetence, a failure by staff to follow their own procedures... There was a failure to discover what was actually in the water and after the poisoning there was a failure to warn the public not

to drink the water until it was known what was in it. The public was told the water was safe to drink when it was not."

The aluminium sulphate, from the authority's regular supplier, was delivered to the Lowermoor water treatment works near Camelford by a relief driver who accidentally discharged the chemical into a tank of water ready to go into the public supply instead of a chemical storage tank.

Mr Gilbert said: "Within minutes the alarm at the headquarters in Exeter showed something was wrong. The operator contacted the man on duty. He was having tea and finished it before he went to the works. Complaints started to come in of foul-tasting, foul-smelling water, black water. People had burns in their mouths, and hair and fingers stuck together. The water was curdling tea. These were dramatic complaints which should have put the authority on notice something was wrong."

No samples of the water were taken that night. The

next day the cause of complaints was attributed to a fault in a lime pump. Senior officials, without taking samples, decided to flush the system, discharging a million gallons of water into the river Camel, where fish were killed over a 14-kilometre stretch.

The authority told the public the water was drinkable hoping it would get better, Mr Gilbert said. The "penny dropped" when staff noticed the aluminium sulphate tank was low, and the supplier confirmed it had made a delivery.

Mr Gilbert said: "The decision was taken not to tell the public what had happened and not to give them elementary advice to flush out their own tanks... Aluminium sulphate will react with copper pipes and part of the trouble was caused by copper poisoning."

The authority finally told the truth 17 days after the incident when it advertised in a local newspaper admitting the mis-delivery of aluminium sulphate but likened it to lemon juice, Mr Gilbert said. The trial continues today.



Forest is born: Matthew Sharpe, aged eight, of Leicestershire, planting a tree yesterday on the site for the new national forest in the Midlands. Earlier, the forest's first tree had been planted at Ashby, Leicestershire, by Sir George Young, junior environment minister. When it is complete, the forest will cover 150 square miles of Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire. Pam Gilder, of the Countryside Commission and project leader for the new forest,



said: "In the middle of the next century we should start to see what looks like a forest developing. We are planting 200, maybe 300 trees, but the

forest will be made up of 30 million trees, so what we are planting today is a very tiny percentage." Sir George, who joined civic leaders, landowners, businessmen and conservationists in planting the first trees, described the occasion as an historic landmark. The minister was accompanied by 100 schoolchildren from surrounding districts, Sir Derek Barber chairman of the Countryside Commission and Raymond Johnstone, chairman of the Forestry Commission.

Tears from man in sex attack case

RUSSELL Bishop, accused of sexually assaulting and attempting to murder a girl aged seven, broke down in tears yesterday as he told of a campaign against him after his acquittal of the murders of two nine-year-old girls.

Mr Bishop, who was found not guilty of the murders three years ago, denied killing the girls but was asked why it was that "policemen, scientists and members of the public think you were guilty". In tears, he pointed to a poster displayed in Brighton which accuses him of being a child killer and asked: "With leaflets like that, what do you expect?"

He said in evidence to Lewes crown court that he had been harassed by police, that the brake pipes of his car had twice been cut and his home firebombed after his acquittal of the murders.

Mr Bishop, aged 24, of Lewes Road, Brighton, East Sussex, is alleged by the prosecution to have abducted the seven-year-old girl last February and driven her in the boot of his car to Devil's Dyke where, it is said, he sexually assaulted her before leaving her naked and for dead.

He denies charges of kidnapping, attempted murder, attempting to choke the girl and indecent assault. The jury has been told he has an alibi defence.

He told the jury that posters showing his photograph and reading "Russell Bishop. Warning Notice. This man is a child killer" had been displayed all over Sussex before his home had been firebombed in February 1989. On two occasions the brake pipes on his car had been cut.

Mr Bishop, who had left the dock on the 14th day of his trial to give evidence from the witness box, admitted that he had previous convictions for burglary and motoring offences. He admitted that the red Cortina the prosecution alleges he used for the abduction had been stolen, but said it had not been stolen by him.

He was asked by Mr Ronald Thwaites, QC, for the defence: "Did you abduct the girl, strangle her half to death, strip her naked and sexually assault her?" He replied: "No sir, I did not."

Mr Bishop said he had not been to Devil's Dyke on the afternoon the girl was kidnapped.

The trial was adjourned until today.

Couple lived with 51 dogs

A couple who lived with their 51 starving and ill dogs in one filthy room of their council home were yesterday placed on probation for 12 months.

Magistrates at Camberwell, south London, disqualified Maurice Swinburn, aged 56, and his wife Daphne, aged 57, of Peckham, south London, from owning any animal for life and ordered each of them to pay £800 costs.

The couple admitted at a previous hearing causing unnecessary suffering to the animals. The 51 crossbred terriers were destroyed.

Gunman jailed

Antony Kerr, a suspected member of the Irish People's Liberation Organisation, was jailed in Belgium yesterday for four-and-a-half years for shooting and wounding a policeman. His alleged accomplice, Peter McNally, was sentenced in his absence to two years.

Father accused

A father was charged yesterday with the murder of his wife and two young children at their home in Ringwood, Hampshire, on Monday afternoon. Totton magistrates remanded Michael Hall, aged 50, in custody.

Man committed

Robert Miller, a financier of central London, was committed for trial at Southwark crown court yesterday charged with 30 offences under the theft act in connection with the collapse of Dunsdale Securities.

Peace plea

Families of terrorist victims, politicians and churchmen yesterday called for an end to the violence in Northern Ireland in letters to the Sinn Féin headquarters in Dublin and the Ulster Defence Association headquarters in Belfast.

Home comforts

A £13 million barracks was opened yesterday at Catterick garrison, North Yorkshire, offering servicemen greater privacy and comfort.

Bond winner

The £250,000 National Savings premium bond prize for December has been won by the holder of bond number 19XN 909728, from County Durham.

England just miss chess silver medal

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

AFTER a disappointing final-round draw against Cuba, England saw the silver medals (which they had won in 1984, 1986 and 1988) slip through their grasp. The 29th Chess Olympiad at Novi Sad, Yugoslavia, ended with the customary victory by the Soviet Union, with 39 points out of a possible total of 56.

England shared second position with the United States on 35½ but the US had faced stronger teams, which gave them the silver medal on tie-break. England had been leading the US by one point before the final round, but they succeeded in snatching defeat from the jaws of victory when John Nunn lost his game, while the US crushed Bulgaria by three points to one.

Other leading scores in the 107-nation competition were: Czechoslovakia, 34½; Yugoslavia, China and Cuba all 33; West Germany, Iceland, India, Sweden, The Netherlands and Yugoslavia B all 32½; Scotland, 31½; Wales 30; Ireland 28; Channel Islands 24.

There was some consolation for England's disappointment at failing to seize the team's silver medals. Grandmaster Murray Chandler, from London, made the superb individual score of nine points from 11 and thus took the individual silver medal on board five. He also took the individual silver medal for the second

best individual performance of the entire olympics. The gold medal for the best personal performance was won by Grandmaster Robert Hubner, of West Germany, while the bronze medal for individual performance went to Vassily Ivanchuk, of the first board of the Soviet team.

In the women's competition there was an outstanding performance by Iolo Jones's board six of the Welsh team. He won the individual gold medal for his board with six points from seven possible. The English performance overall was slightly disappointing and questions will be asked whether the right team was fielded at crucial moments. For example, in the final-round match against Cuba was it right to field John Nunn when he had only just lost a game in the previous round against Iceland? An extra half point against Cuba would have made England's fourth consecutive silver medal a certainty.

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Gorbachev to root out food shop profiteers

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev has promised to root out black marketeering of food in a programme designed to ease severe shortages this winter. A survey of 50 state stores found that "when they close, they have a third shift" during which employees sell food illegally, Mr Gorbachev told parliament yesterday.

Shop assistants often set aside choice goods to sell later at inflated prices and pocketed additional profits.

"Within the next two or three weeks, we think we can control the situation," Mr Gorbachev said. He added that he was planning to in-

crease food supplies from domestic and overseas sources, and he had secured loans and credits to import flour, sugar, vegetable oil, margarine, meat, milk products and eggs.

The government was also stepping up its construction programme for food processing, and would set aside 12 million acres for "individual farming" in an attempt to increase domestic production, Mr Gorbachev said. He did not specify what types of food processing industries would be developed, or whether the additional land for individual farming would be owned by private farmers or collective farms.

On Monday, the parliament of the Russian federation approved a measure allowing private land ownership, but the national legislature has not taken that step. The United States, Germany and Italy have begun sending food aid to the Soviet Union, and other Western and Asian countries have promised support. Soviet officials blame distribution difficulties for the increasing number of empty shelves in shops.

Mr Gorbachev also formally proposed to the Soviet parliament a number of constitutional amendments to reorganise his government by creating a vice-presidency, abolishing his presidential council, and giving more power to an advisory board representing the 15 republics. The reforms await approval by the Congress of People's Deputies, which is to sit on December 17.

Securitate files are taken over

Bucharest — Romania's justice ministry said yesterday it was taking over thousands of files from the former Securitate, the secret police of the executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. A spokesman said about 150,000 files were being taken over because they were directly related to the work of the ministry.

Opposition newspapers and groups have been demanding that the files and activities of the Securitate be made public. At the height of Ceausescu's power the organisation had 70,000 agents. (Reuters)

Liner damaged

Saint-Nazaire — Fire destroyed the forward section of Monarch of the Seas, a new US-Norwegian Royal Caribbean Cruise line luxury ship being readied at a shipyard here for sea trials on December 21. The yard's manager said the ship's stern and most of its machinery were undamaged. (APF)

Mir rendezvous

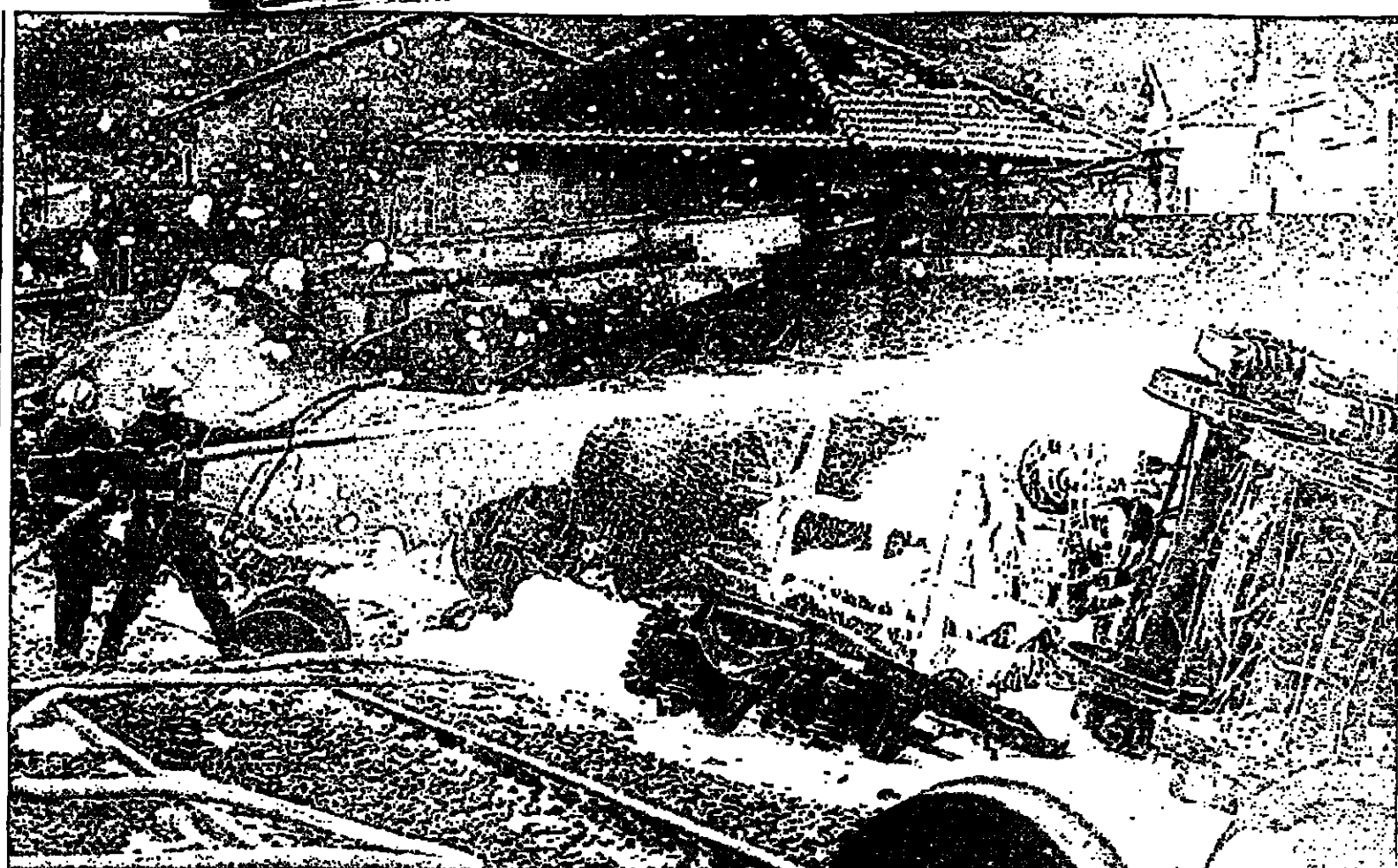
Moscow — The spacecraft carrying Toshihiro Akiyama, a Japanese astronaut, docked with the Soviet cosmonauts has docked with the orbiting Soviet space station, Mir. Mr Akiyama is the first Japanese and first Japanese to go into space. (Reuters)

Fans defect

Oslo — Two dozen Romanian volleyball supporters refused to return home after a European Cup match and some applied for political asylum, police said here. The group, travelling with the Universitatea Craiova team, failed to turn up for a charter flight home. (AP)

Taxing business

Catania — Sicilian shopkeepers and businessmen who have to pay protection money to the Mafia on top of taxes, have suggested that extortion should be a tax-deductible business expense. (Reuters)



Railway wreckage: firemen spraying foam over a derailed freight train in the Loire valley, about 30 miles south of Lyons. Petrol in some of the train's 22 wagons fuelled the blaze, which raged out of control for eight hours, destroying four homes. There were no casualties.

Liberals give Kohl ultimatum

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

DESPITE his election triumph, Helmut Kohl will not be re-elected as chancellor if he refuses to adopt a plan by the liberal Free Democrats for making eastern Germany into a low-tax area, Count Otto Lamsdorff, the party leader, makes clear in an interview with *Bild*, published today.

The chancellor needs the support of the 79 FDP Bundestag members in order to command a majority with his Christian Democrats (CDU), and Count Otto started a first round of negotiations with Herr Kohl on forming a new coalition yesterday, determined to have his way.

If the FDP's tax plan was not accepted then Herr Kohl would not have the party's support when the Bundestag meets in Berlin on December 20 to pick the chancellor for the next four years.

The FDP plan, outlined in *Bild*, is to put a ceiling of 40 per cent on company tax in eastern Germany, compared with the top level of 65 per cent in the west. Individual income tax levels for anyone working in the east would also be reduced by between 20 and 25 per cent, whether or not they chose to actually live in the west. The tax relief would also apply to foreign com-

panies deciding to set up a business in eastern Germany.

Herr Kohl decided this plan during the election as being no more than a leftover from the years that the FDP spent in government with the Social Democratic Party. "That's what they get from lying in the same bed as socialists for so long," he told election rallies.

Count Otto, however, said yesterday that he was determined to push the plan through. He said the FDP believed this was the surest way to attract investment quickly and also minimise the tax burden on the local population without forcing up salaries and inflation.

The tax idea also has the support of Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister and the FDP's dominant personality. In an interview with *Der Spiegel* he said that although his party was stronger than before, it was not necessarily seeking more ministries. What the FDP wanted was to introduce priorities for the speedy development of the east, including making it a low-tax area.

Herr Kohl has talks yesterday with Theo Waigel, leader of the Christian Social Union, the Bavarian sister party of the CDU. The two

then met Count Otto for a first round of bargaining over ministries and coalition politics. Figures released during the day helped to support the chancellor's election claim that it would be possible to pay for restructuring eastern Germany without any increase in taxation levels.

The figures, covering the third quarter of the year, show the economy growing at 5.5 per cent, higher than at any time since 1976. At the same time unemployment in the west over the quarter was 122,000 less than in the same period last year. The main factor in this growth has been the enormous demand for consumer goods after German economic union on July 1.

While Herr Kohl set about building a government for the next four years, the SPD was struggling to find a someone capable of leading them in the forlorn period of opposition ahead.

Its candidate in the election, Oskar Lafontaine, announced that he was determined to plunge back into local state politics in his native Saarland, and Hans-Jochen Vogel, the party chairman for the past four years, said he would definitely not be seeking re-election at the next party

conference in May.

This came as a double blow to the party, which needs strong leadership to hold it together after a third consecutive election defeat if it is to mount a credible challenge to Helmut Kohl and his Christian Democrats in four years' time. After an election campaign which drew harsh criticism from SPD elder statesmen such as the former chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, there is talk of a serious split opening in the party if someone does not take a firm hand quickly.

For all the controversy surrounding him, Herr Lafontaine remains the party's dominant thinker and his campaign has committed the SPD in opposition to fight for new measures to protect the environment through taxation as the number one priority.

This idea found favour with the bulk of the working population since exit polls showed that the majority of voters in the 25 to 39 age group voted SPD, even if the youngest voters of all supported Herr Kohl's unification bandwagon.

Herr Lafontaine had always said that if he lost he would go back to the Saarland, where he has built an impressive power base, rather than stay on in Bonn. Herr Vogel, however, who is tired after leading the party since he lost to Herr Kohl in 1987, had expected to be able to stand down in favour of the chancellor candidate and the party believed that Herr Lafontaine would in the end be dragged into accepting.

According to Reinhold Kopp, one of Herr Lafontaine's closest advisors in the Saarland, it is still quite possible that he may go back into national politics.

Mussolini son to sue over misuse of 'fascist'

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN ROME

VITTORIO, oldest son of Mussolini, the second world war fascist dictator, has been granted leave to sue the Italian state railway and the mayor of Bologna for describing the bombing of Bologna railway station in 1980 as a fascist act.

The bombing, like so many terrorist acts of the late 1970s in Italy, has never been satisfactorily explained. However, a plaque at the station listing the names of the 85 people killed attributes their deaths to "an act of fascist terrorism".

Last July the sentences of several right-wingers convicted of staging the attack were quashed after new evidence failed to link them to it. Signor Mussolini then asked the Bologna authorities if they would remove the word fascist from the plaque. Not surprisingly, he is highly sensitive to inaccurate uses of the term whose philosophy his father created.

His lawyers said yesterday that by using the term fascist in a broad, general and ultimately inaccurate sense, the Bologna authorities were committing an "act of defamation" against the family of Mussolini. The Bologna magistrate, Bruno Ciccone, agreed, ruling that Signor Mussolini could pursue a legal course to remove the word from the plaque.

The decision was hailed by many as conclusive evidence that "irrational antipathy" to the legacy of Mussolini was finally over.

Danes to vote on EC reform

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLET IN COPENHAGEN

WITH a general election due a week from today, Denmark's political parties have broadly agreed to hold a national referendum in the first half of 1992 on European Community plans for social, economic and political integration.

Shortly before losing the Conservative leadership contest, Margaret Thatcher called for a referendum in Britain to decide whether it would abandon the pound in favour of a single European currency, a key element in the Delors plan for monetary union. The issue raised by the then prime minister was widely seen as unsuitable for a referendum.

Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Liberal foreign minister, said yesterday in an interview in *Borsen*, Denmark's leading financial daily newspaper, that the referendum would be needed because the election had been brought forward to next week, following the collapse of negotiations last month between the 30-month-old Conservative-Liberal government and the opposition Social Democrats on a state budget for 1991, and an economic reform package.

The interview also reported Ritt Bjerregaard, a former Social Democratic education minister and now the party's foreign policy spokeswoman, as agreeing with Mr Ellemann-Jensen on holding the referendum.

The timing of the election, which opinion polls forecast as being a close-run affair between the ruling centre-right groups and the opposition, will make it difficult for Denmark to decide on key European economic and monetary union issues at the two-day Rome summit, due to start next Friday.

The parties' agreement means parliament has the consensus it needs for the vote. Denmark has so far held two referendums on Europe. In 1972, two-thirds of Danes endorsed EC membership along with Britain and Ireland; and in 1986 they voted 56 per cent in favour of Luxembourg reforms designed to pave the way for the Single European Act.

Denmark, long one of the most lukewarm community members and second only to Britain in its scepticism about Europe, has recently undergone a sea change in its attitude. The breaching of the Berlin Wall concentrated Danish minds on Europe, reminding them of the danger of an all-powerful German neighbour and rekindling bitter memories of the loss of Schleswig-Holstein to Prussia in 1864 and the Nazi occupation of 1940-5.

The change of attitude reflects economic realities, as well as a general consensus that EC institutions should be strengthened, to guarantee that the united Germany is firmly anchored in an integrated Europe.

Bulgarian opposition left in disarray as party leader goes

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SOFIA

BULGARIA'S main opposition party MPs yesterday afternoon did not know if they still had a leader. On Monday Peter Beron, the head of the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), announced his "intention to resign" amid allegations that he had been a secret police informer during Bulgaria's years of communism. In a widely disbelieved statement Mr Beron, who is the UDF candidate for prime minister, said that he wanted to resign

so that he could "return to his career as a scientist". He then left for Italy.

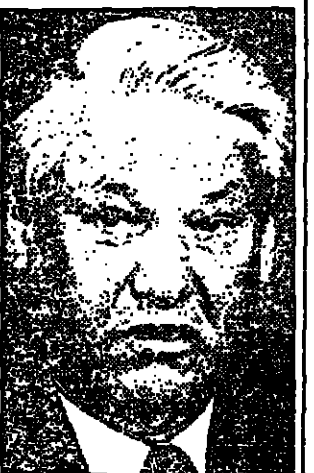
Yesterday, despondent UDF MPs argued that Mr Beron's "intention to resign" meant that he had not gone yet. They said they had seen no proof that he had been a police spy.

The main source of the allegations is Dr Konstantin Trenchev, the leader of the Independent trade union Podkrepa. Dr Trenchev said:

"Beron was known to the secret police by the codename 'Bontcho'. The UDF agreed to nominate him as prime minister, but two weeks ago an article appeared in the socialist newspaper *Duma* which said that socialist leaders knew who 'Bontcho' was. From then on he understood that it was impossible for him to stay on in this position. 'Bontcho' is Beron."

Last week Dr Trenchev's trade union movement began a general strike which brought down the government of Andrei Lukin. The UDF and the socialists are now negotiating a form of coalition government. While some opposition figures, such as the militantly anti-socialist Dr Trenchev, are known to be against the coalition, others, including Mr Beron, want to participate. The UDF leader has also made known his ambition to be prime minister.

Parliament in Sofia was last night awash with rumours. One UDF MP, Krassen Stanchev, suggested that the party leader was the victim, not of a socialist plot, nor the casualty of his known disagreements with Dr Trenchev, but had been pushed by erstwhile colleagues who wanted to replace him with a more hardline anti-socialist party leader.



Yeltsin: may have to help shore up the economy

Russian deputies warned of economic slump

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE Russian federation faces a big drop in oil exports and declining output of coal, timber and some key metals, according to a report presented to its legislators as they gathered to press for greater economic independence.

The document, prepared by Russia's state committee on the economy, indicates the extent of the breakdown in central planning and the chaos that may ensue as the largest Soviet republic lurches towards a market economy.

It was presented to the Russian Congress of People's Deputies as the republic's government, headed by Boris Yeltsin, sought a mandate for a radical economic course and

increased autonomy from the central Soviet authorities.

The report gives a warning that its predictions may not take full account of inflation, and predicts a 3 per cent drop in Russia's national income next year. Other black spots include a dive in exports to 71 million tonnes from 120 million this year, presumably owing in part to the end of subsidised sales to Eastern Europe.

The report projects increases in housing construction and the output of electricity, basic chemicals and consumer goods, but Ivan Silayev, the Russian prime minister, issued a warning that there would not be an

early easing in the acute shortages of consumer goods.

Mr Silayev, a respected moderate, deplored the central Soviet authorities' financial profligacy. He said Russia's textile industry was "paralysed" because foreign suppliers, fearful of bad debts, had suspended deliveries.

He called for the republic to retain a much bigger share of export earnings. He also wanted a Russian say in energy and transport policies affecting the whole Soviet Union, an independent Russian prosecutor, and Russian control over the scores of factories now being switched from military to civilian production.

Parisian tempers in over-drive at new speed limit

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

THESE are desperate times for the motorists of Paris, whose comprehensive lack of respect for the code of the road sets them apart, even in a nation of famously dangerous drivers. Last of all, a new inner-city speed limit weekend a new inner-city speed limit of 50kph (30mph) came into effect at the same time, the use of rear seat belts became compulsory for most vehicles.

As sensible Parisians freely concede over the dinner table, both those measures, which now apply in all French towns of any size, make compelling sense. Their combined effect could be to reduce the carnage on the nation's roads by up to 1,000 a year. Trials in Strasbourg, St

wheel and they are transformed into snarling, speed-mad bullies whose "75" number plate is rightly feared throughout the land. The idea that they, of all people, should be restricted to a piffling 50kph and obliged to waste a few seconds on every journey clunk-clicking in the back seat is perceived as intolerable.

Thus, experimenting lawfully on one of the main avenues the Sunday the new limit was introduced, your correspondent ran the gauntlet of hooting, headlight flashing and vivid gestures that Parisians reserve for those who get in their way. A French reporter who tried sticking to 50kph on the first working day faced

prefect of Paris, it was originally intended to apply the reduced limit to the *periphérique* that encircles the capital. When not jammed solid, it is a daunting racetrack, almost every yard of which carries ominous skid marks. On mature reflection, M Verbrughe decided, "it would have been very difficult to obtain respect for 50kph".

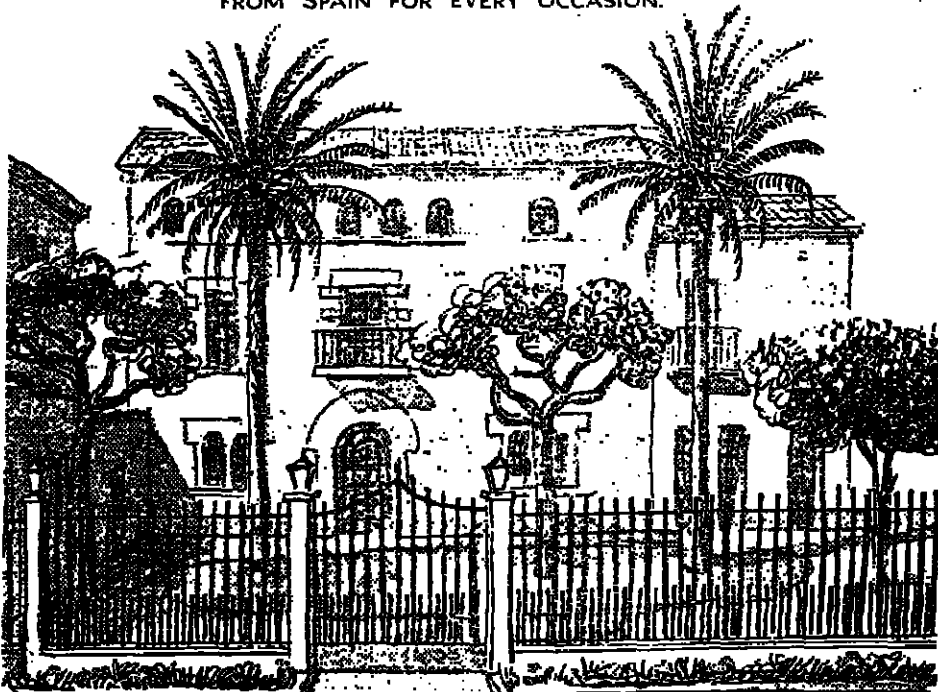
The rear seat belt law is also straining tempers. Not far from *The Times* office, one offender almost came to blows with the policeman booking him — minimum fine 150 francs (£15). He was adamant that there had been no advance warning about this insufferable regulation.

In fact, Paris has been plastered with posters announcing its introduc-

think I'm going to spend my life in first gear?" demanded the driver of a Porsche caught speeding near the Arc de Triomphe (minimum penalty 1,300 francs).

Although the police chief has promised "implacable" application of the latest measures, doubts persist. The concept of good citizenship is not deeply rooted in the average Parisian soul. Drivers still stamp on the gas whenever the traffic clears momentarily, and still menace pedestrians with rubber-burning getaways at the lights. More people are now being killed on foot in Paris than in cars.

As for seat belts in the back, the fine is levied not on drivers but on the offending passenger (taxis included).



THE SPAIN JUST WAITING TO BE TASTED. WINES FROM SPAIN, 60 CHILTERN STREET, LONDON W1M 1PR



CAN YOU IMAGINE LOOKING AT LIFE THROUGH HIS EYES?

Who is he? This man who dares not show his face? Is he Palestinian, or Irish, Iranian, German or British?

Which group does he belong to? IRA? Bader-Meinhof? Red Brigade? UVF? Abu Nidal?

Whatever his label, he is a fanatic who believes that any actions, however callous and inhuman, are justified in support of his 'cause'.

The British Army has a great deal of experience of what we call 'counter-revolutionary' warfare. We fought terror in Palestine, Malaya, Aden and Cyprus. We served as part of the Multi National

Force in the Lebanon. And, of course, there's Northern Ireland.

Few people know better than Army Officers how terrorism damages innocent lives.

People who bully, shoot and bomb to achieve their ends are anathema to us.

But because they tend to be civilians who find shelter among the population at large, it is doubly difficult to find them and bring them to justice.

As an Army Officer, it's likely that you will do a tour in Northern Ireland.

But you might find yourself staring down the wrong end of a Kalashnikov

almost anywhere in the world.

If you find yourself pitted against a man like this, what is the best way to fight him?

'Know Your Enemy' It's one of the oldest military maxims, but never is it apter than when dealing with terrorism.

To be effective against this man, you need to know how his mind works. Why he does what he does. What he is likely to do next.

You have no hope of understanding him if you go into a situation with a closed mind. Only if you open your mind to his.

Start by learning everything you can about the situation: historically, politically, militarily, socially.

Read the newspapers he reads. Listen to his local radio station. Eat the food he eats. Try to feel the rhythms of his life.

So when you're out on patrol you'll sense when something is amiss. It could be some tiny deviation from the norm. The children aren't around. There are no windows open on the street. A woman who normally says hello is silent.

That's when you start expecting the bombs or bullets.

As you become familiar with the situation you may well come to know individual 'terrorist' suspects.

You will look out for them and take note if you see them away from their usual haunts. But in dealing with them you must be polite and scrupulously fair.

This isn't just the old 'officer-and-gentleman' belief in fair play, important though that is.

On counter terrorist operations you will be operating under civil law. You can't act on suspicion alone.

You're upholding that law and must obey it, however frustrating that may be.

In dealing with civilians, whether hostile or friendly, you must set an example of fairness, courtesy and decency and take pains to protect any who may be endangered.

Sometimes you will have to exercise remarkable self-restraint.

What would you do if one of your men was lying in the street with his leg blown off and a crowd of hostile civilians gathered to jeer at him?

It is difficult not to be brutalised by brutality, but it's your responsibility to see that this does not happen.

Follow the rules of engagement. Use minimum force. Yet be prepared to act instantly should your life or others' lives be threatened.

Being effective in such situations calls for you to be brave, tough and decisive. Tolerant and open-minded. Fair, balanced and diplomatic. In short, a human paragon.

Do such people exist at all? If so, could it be possible that you are one of them? Maybe you worry, reading this, that you could never live up to such exacting standards.

Good. We would hate to give you the impression that an Army Officer's job is an easy one.

But equally, a lot of people who never thought they were 'officer material' have been amazed and delighted to be accepted.

Maybe it's a thousand years of recruiting experience. But we can often tell what you are capable of, even if you can't.

Would you make a good Army Officer? The first step towards finding out is to phone 0345 300 111 at any time or return this coupon to Major John Gutteridge, Army Officer Entry, Freepost 4335, Dept. 0150, Bristol BS1 3YX.

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King promises short sharp victory if Gulf war comes

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DEFENCE

A GULF war would result in a "short, sharp, quick" victory for the allies, Tom King, the defence secretary, said yesterday in the face of warnings by Labour backbenchers that a military conflict would result in widespread loss of life.

MPs also heard a stark warning from the defence secretary of more defence cuts and job losses in the wake of the ending of the cold war. Ministers expressed their annoyance that two councils, Helston and Gosport, had not heeded government advice to exempt servicemen posted to the Gulf from the poll tax.

James Lamond, Labour MP for Oldham Central and Ruyton, said that ministers were seriously considering an attack that would result in the

deaths of tens of thousands of children.

Deve Nellist, Labour MP for Coventry South East, told Mr King that "blood and oil do not mix". There would be a bloodbath on both sides if force were used.

He cited the fears expressed by Brigadier Patrick Cordingley, commander of the Desert Rats, and Major Ewan London, his chief of staff, that an assault by the Iraqis on the Division on Iraqi positions would lead to heavy British casualties. Mr Nellist maintained that Brigadier Cordingley was bracing himself for a casualty rate of 15 per cent among his men, or 4,500 deaths.

Amid noisy scenes in the Commons, Mr Nellist said that an increasing number of people in Britain did not believe that such bloodshed was warranted.

Mr King said Mr Nellist had committed an error by equating casualties with fatalities. He would not "bandy figures around", but the extra troops being sent to the Gulf by Britain and its allies should be seen as an attempt to minimise loss of life.

"These (the extra troops) are precisely to ensure that if the military option had to be used, which nobody wants to see, it will be short, sharp and quick, and the casualties on the allied side will be kept to a minimum."

Mr King said that if Mr Nellist cared about avoiding casualties, he should turn "one-eighth of his volume" on Baghdad and urge President Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait.

Conservative MPs supported the defence secretary in his insistence that if President Saddam did not yield to economic and diplomatic pressure, force would have to be used.

The Labour frontbench did not contest Mr King's remarks

about the possible use of force. But Martin O'Neill, the Opposition's chief defence spokesman, wanted a "kick up the backside" for British Telecom and Mercury. They had failed to provide cheap and adequate telephone links to Saudi Arabia so that the 30,000 troops in the area could keep in touch with their loved ones.

Mr King said he was "now" grateful to the telephone companies for what they were doing. But there were bound to be problems when so many people tried to ring home around Christmas Day.

Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, said he was pleased that the great majority of councils had heeded government advice to remove servicemen posted to the Gulf from community charge registers. But it was very disappointing that Gosport and Helston had ignored the advice.

James Hill, Conservative MP for Southampton Test, said that such decisions should not be left to the whim of local authorities. Councils would be reluctant to keep such exemptions going year after year and losing revenue from tens of thousands of charge-payers.

He suggested that the defence ministry should pick up the bill. Mr Hamilton said that the matter would be covered by the review of the community charge now being undertaken. He appealed to councils to exempt troops serving overseas.

Earlier, Mr King spoke of more defence cuts on the way as a result of the Options for Change review. Up to 5,000 jobs are already in jeopardy at British Aerospace, partly because of the cancellation by the defence ministry of an order for 33 Tornado fighter aircraft. There was more disappointment to come for many MPs and their constituents, Mr King said. They had to realise that the peace dividend could turn out to be a "loss of jobs dividend".



Nellist: "blood and oil do not mix"

Kinnock's private treatment

By PETER MULLIGAN

HOSPITALS

NEIL Kinnock has received private medical treatment for a neck injury, it emerged yesterday after a time exchange in the Commons in which he championed the National Health Service.

The disclosure was made after John Major, the prime minister, appeared to allude to the fact when he said: "Unlike some Labour MPs, I unfailingly use the NHS".

A spokesman for the Labour leader said later that the osteopathic treatment for the injury sustained playing rugby was more than 20 years ago was not available on the NHS.

At question time, Mr Kinnock called on the prime

minister to scrap the opt-out scheme for NHS hospitals. He accompanied his call by a reference to treatment Mr Major has received for a leg injury and for a wisdom tooth operation.

Mr Major responded that that NHS's future was entirely secure, with increased funding, as it had been for the past 10 years and as it would continue to be.

Mr Kinnock sought to embarrass Mr Major by raising the case of Hinchbrook hospital, in Mr Major's Huntingdon constituency, and asking him to "make a start" by convincing his own constituents about its future. Waiting lists there had doubled in the past two years, Mr Kinnock said.

Mr Major said: "Self-government is being proposed by the consultants and staff in Hinchbrook hospital which has the most enormous affection of all the people of the area."

He added to loud cheers from his own backbenchers: "I will tell him one further thing about Hinchbrook hospital - it was never available under a Labour government. It was this government which provided it."

Mr Kinnock said that the advantages of monetary union were compelling. It would make trade and cross-border capital flows easier, improve the efficiency of European capital movements, and make the City a force for constructive investment. It would also give to the British economy the ballast of a counter-inflation policy that it had lacked in past years.

He said that monetary union was no easy option. "Monetary union will force

Mr Ashdown, speaking in London, said that while Westminster engaged in its parochial disputes about the nature of sovereignty and the ogres of federalism the rest of Europe was constantly moving on and deciding this country's future without it. He accused Labour leaders of verbal and intellectual gymnastics, saying that the new policy paper was carefully laced with so many conditions that would be unacceptable to Britain's EC partners as to make it a meaningless commitment.

He said that under Labour's plans the central bank would have to be accountable to finance ministers and committed to growth strategies that were quite unsuited to its objective of price stability and sound money. While the Conservatives said that any form of monetary union would be unacceptable to the British Parliament, Labour ensured that its form of monetary union would be unacceptable to all the other parliaments.

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Monetary union wins full Ashdown support

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

EUROPE

PADDY Ashdown gave unqualified support yesterday to European monetary union and a single European currency amid renewed evidence of misgivings in the Labour party over the leadership's backing for much closer European integration.

Mr Ashdown attacked the confused positions of the Conservative and Labour leaderships which he alleged were designed to keep their troops marching roughly in the same direction.

At the same time, Peter Shore, the veteran Labour anti-marketier, described his party's new policy document on monetary union as disturbingly inadequate and Francis Maude, Treasury financial secretary, again emphasised the government's opposition to an imposed single currency.

In a letter to *The Times* today, Mr Shore calls "imp and supine" a passage in the new policy that states that Britain's European Community partners want to move towards full union and a single currency and "Labour believes that it would not be in the national interest if Britain allowed itself to be excluded from such development."

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He said that monetary union was no easy option. "Monetary union will force

wanted a Community that enabled more decisions to be taken at the lowest level of government. He said that if the forthcoming inter-governmental conferences were to succeed, they must place at their heart the rights of the European citizen. Only then would they "give us the chance to make Europe live for our citizens and voters".

Mr Maude told a conference in London that Britain was not prepared to commit itself to an imposed single currency. It would lead to a "massive" pooling of sovereignty with decision-making and monetary policy moving away from London. "No one can say that will never happen but we need to be persuaded that the advantages of the single currency are great enough to outweigh the disadvantages," he said at the conference on EMU organised by the Centre for Policy Studies. Europe was not ready economically for a single currency and it might be a long time before it was.

He was not afraid to use the word "federal" to describe what might be coming. "But I am convinced that what we are about to create will not look like any existing federal structure... Europe will not be a nation state writ large. It will not be like the United States of America in that sense. Europe will embody a unique set of political and economic relationships." He

Letters, page 13

Field for committee post

FRANK Field (Birkenhead, Lab) is expected to be elected chairman of the Commons select committee on social security next week and Sir David Price (Eastleigh, C) is favourite to be chairman of the health committee. The two new committees replace the social services committee and will shadow the work of the health department and the social security department.

Members of the social security committee will be Mr Field, Andrew Bennett (Lab), Jeremy Corbyn (Lab), Stephen Day (C), Tony Favell (C), Robert Hughes (C), Ian McCartney (Lab), Patrick Nicholls (C) and Gary Waller (C). Another Conservative and a representative from one of the smaller parties have still to be appointed.

The health committee will include Tom Clarke (Lab), Jerry Hayes (C), Roger Sims (C), Audrey Wise (Lab), David Hinchliffe (Lab), Alice Mahon (Lab), Andrew Rowe (C), James Couchman (C), Sir David Price, Nicholas Winterton (C) and the Rev Martin Smyth (UU).

Welsh Tories elect Grist

By OUR CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DEFIANCE

WELSH Conservative MPs sent a defiant signal to the prime minister last night over his decision to dismiss Ian Grist, junior minister at the Welsh Office.

They elected Mr Grist as chairman of their parliamentary group as a mark of solidarity with him in the wake of his replacement by Nicholas Bennett, MP for Pembroke.

John Major's decision to dismiss Mr Grist has been criticised as a blunder by the Welsh Tories because it left open the interpretation that it was retaliation against them for backing Michael Heseltine. Sir Anthony Meyer, MP for Clywd North-West, had been due to become chairman of the group last night but stepped aside for Mr Grist.

Most of the seven Welsh Tory MPs were on record as backing Mr Heseltine and David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, was the only cabinet minister to support him.

Mr Hunt attempted to defuse the dispute yesterday by stating that he had recommended Mr Bennett for promotion.

That statement surprised Welsh Tories, but they noted that Mr Hunt had not said that he had recommended Mr Grist's removal. Downing Street sources said that Mr Hunt and Mr Major had consulted over the team of Welsh ministers and that Mr Major was determined to bring on new talent.

Mr Hunt said that suggestions that Mr Bennett was brought in because of Mr Grist's support for Mr Heseltine were a misunderstanding.

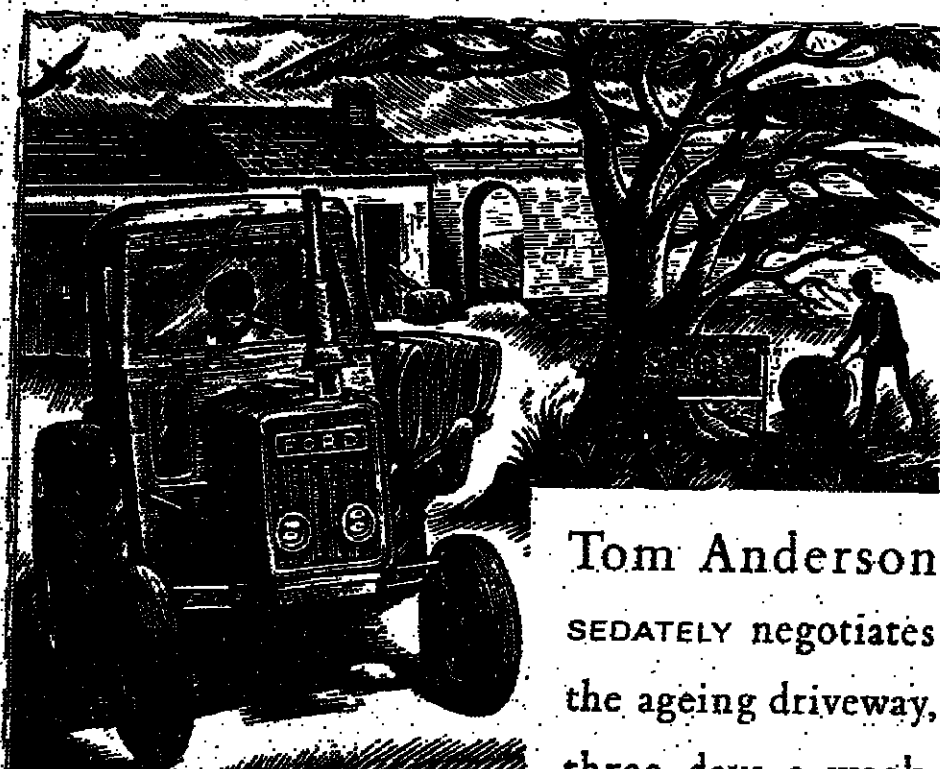
Mr Grist, MP for Cardiff Central, has said he was "miffed" to lose his job as parliamentary under secretary of state. Mr Bennett, aged 41, was a prominent member of Mr Major's party leadership campaign team.

Mr Grist, who had been one of the three Welsh Office ministers, said last night that he was "the most sackable of the three leaves on the tree". Asked whether he was dismissed because he backed Mr Heseltine, he said: "I think so. It was that and the need to find a reward for the diligence of my replacement, a little bit of both."

NUMBER VII: FULL AHEAD - SLOW (ON TAKING THE LOW-LOADER ROAD HOME).

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HANDCRAFTED by the SIXTEEN MEN of TAIN.

MP battles on for better hours

By ROBERT MORGAN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

Graham Allen, the Labour MP for Nottingham North, is renewing his campaign to reform the constitution and the workings of Parliament.

He had hoped that a new prime minister might mean a new broom ready to sweep away existing practices and rules. But his first foray ended in disappointment when he found that parliamentary questions tabled to John Major were swiftly transferred to other ministers for reply.

Tomorrow, Mr Allen will be putting three bills before the Commons in an attempt to establish a bill of rights, a written constitution and abolition of

sales involves a separation of powers of the constitution under which the prime minister and the judiciary are separate from the legislature, as in America. In Britain, he points out, all appointments in effect are in the gift of the prime minister of the day.

Mr Allen also wants the Commons to sit "proper hours", from 11.30am until 7pm. He has tabled again motions that he put forward in the last session of Parliament to change the sitting time.

At present, MPs meet at 2.30pm and although the sitting is supposed to end at 10.30, the standing order is suspended on most days to allow debates to go on into the night. Opponents of the changes argue that afternoon sit-

have time at their Whitehall desks. However, with many committees now sitting in the afternoon, part of the argument falls. An experiment with morning sittings in the Sixties, introduced by the late Richard Crossman, was an abject failure. MPs found that not only did they not have mornings free for other work, but they were also detained just as late at night.

Mr Allen is not wildly optimistic that his radical proposals for the constitution or Parliament will find favour with the government, although he does have an ally in Douglas Hurd. The foreign secretary said during the leadership campaign

France hints at readiness to break ranks over Kuwait

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

IN a significant departure from allied policy on the Gulf, Pierre Chevènement, the French defence minister, yesterday hinted that Kuwait's borders might be redrawn if President Saddam Hussein would first agree to pull his troops out of the country.

Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, who is closer to President Mitterrand and more influential than the defence minister, echoed M Chevènement's call for an international conference on the Middle East if the Gulf confrontation was peacefully resolved. America and Britain have refused to link such a conference directly to any negotiations over Kuwait.

Since President Saddam has made frequent demands for a broad-ranging international conference on the Middle East, France's assertion that there should be "linkage" between any settlement with Iraq and wider issues such as the Palestinian question will cause concern among her Western allies.

The ambiguities of French policy since the confrontation began have previously raised questions

about the true objectives of the government's strategy. Only two days ago, M Dumas mused aloud about the possibility of going to Baghdad after the planned visit of James Baker, the US Secretary of State, later this month.

M Chevènement, who has been criticised for his past membership of a Franco-Iraqi friendship society, said that an Iraqi agreement to withdraw from Kuwait would open the way to discussing the "modalities" of adjusting the map of the contested frontier. "There is a territorial dispute and a financial dispute," he said on French television late on Monday night. "Some good geographers have already studied what could be the shape of frontiers that, you must admit, are mostly very recent... there is a matter here for discussion."

According to the defence minister, whom some see as the French government's main "dove" on the Gulf confrontation, agreement by Baghdad to leave Kuwait would open the way for a UN peace-keeping force to be deployed there, followed by an international conference on the region's problems. "If there is a chance to avoid war, we must grasp it," he said, echoing President Mitterrand's observation in September that "everything would become possible" after an Iraqi withdrawal.

M Dumas's observations in Paris yesterday will be studied particularly closely, since he is one of President Mitterrand's closest advisers. He told the parliament of the Western European Union that "a global regulation" of Middle Eastern problems would have to follow hard on the heels of resolution of the Gulf confrontation.

Singling out Lebanon and the Israel-Palestine confrontation, M Dumas said that France regarded an international conference as the perfect canvas under which to hold talks aimed at working out individual settlements. "Plenty of other major powers think the same, including the United States," M Dumas maintained. The failure to hold out a prospect of reaching agreement in such cases would put more arguments into President Saddam's hands.

M Dumas also raised the sensitive matter of the West's contribution to building up the powerful Iraqi armed forces. France "regretted" its own substantial deliveries of weapons, he said, while it was up to every other nation involved "to make its *mea culpa* and draw the appropriate conclusions from the experience."

Both M Dumas and M Chevènement were adamant that President Saddam must make the first move by quitting Kuwait, and both sounded fairly pessimistic about the chances of avoiding war. France was obliged to prepare for conflict, M Dumas acknowledged: "the countdown has started," said M Chevènement, and the chances of peace were "relatively weak."

Meanwhile, ministry of defence figures released yesterday said the Gulf crisis will cost France FF1.27 billion (£131 million) this year. The Defence Ministry is asking parliament to add an extra FF1.67 billion immediately to 1990's military budget of FF230.77 billion.

The Gulf operation, in which more than 6,000 French soldiers have been sent to Saudi Arabia, was the largest unexpected operation of the year. Others included French military intervention in the African states of Chad, Gabon, the Central African Republic and the Comoro islands as well as in Lebanon.



Shevardnadze: accused of acting unconstitutionally

Leading article, p13



Friendly clinch: Mohammed Ali hugs Royce Smart, one of 15 American hostages who was released by Iraq after a mission to Baghdad by the former heavyweight boxing champion

Military chief steals the limelight in US build-up

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

COLIN POWELL is America's most talked-about joint chiefs of staff chairman. Not only, at 53, is he the youngest man to hold the post, but he is also the first black

and the first head of the armed services to serve as the American president's chief military adviser since Congress expanded the powers of the position four years ago.

As Mr Bush has worked over the past four months to sell the most rapid mass deployment of United States troops since the second world war to an increasingly sceptical public, General Powell has emerged as an important ambassador on Capitol Hill, explaining in his affable and unassuming style the thinking behind his country's military strategy toward Iraq.

The four-star general is a Vietnam veteran, who believes a strong nation should wield its power with care, but commit forces quickly and in large numbers when military action is needed, in order to limit casualties and avoid prolonged fighting. He

influenced President Bush's decision last month to announce the further Gulf deployment of up to 200,000 American troops.

This week, before a Democratic panel of congressmen that favours relying on sanctions before resorting to war in order to remove President Saddam Hussein from Kuwait, General Powell gave a crisp account of the philosophy behind Operation Desert Shield — an all-out war involving air, naval and ground forces, and not a limited show of force that only would be "designed to hope to win".

Months before Iraq invaded Kuwait, General Powell ordered the overhaul of contingency plans for a Middle East emergency to include the defence of Saudi Arabia's oilfields from marauding neighbours. The new version was the foundation for America's response to Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait on 2 August.

The Democratic Senate has made clear it will review the extended powers of General Pow-

ell's post once the Gulf confrontation is over.

At ease with the media, General Powell (whose pronunciation the first syllable of his first name to rhyme with "grow") has been tipped as a possible running mate for President Bush in 1992. His name on the ticket could encourage the return to the Republican party of black voters, who defected almost 70 years ago in favour of the New Deal of Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The son of Jamaican immigrants, who grew up before racial segregation in one of New York's poorest districts, General Powell joined the army after earning a degree in geology. Rare in his rank for not having passed through West Point, the elite military training academy, one of his favourite maxims is: "You are not limited by anything but your own ability." His political credentials include posts at the Pentagon and White House, including that of national security adviser during Ronald Reagan's presidency.

Husain in Iraq for more talks

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BAGHDAD

KING Husain of Jordan arrived here yesterday for talks with President Saddam Hussein on the Gulf conflict and other issues, Arab diplomats said.

The Jordanian monarch was received at the airport by President Saddam and senior officials and the two leaders went into the presidential palace for immediate talks.

King Husain is a regular visitor to Baghdad. Although Jordan has condemned the invasion of Kuwait, it has been supportive of Iraq and has sought an Arab solution.

Diplomats said the two leaders planned to discuss the forthcoming visit to Washington of Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, who has been invited by President Bush.

Amnesty report claims Tehran executed 5,000 in three years

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

IRANIAN officials known as the "Death Commission" condemned more than 2,500 people to be executed in a six-month period in 1988 "in the most horrific wave of political executions in Iran since the early 1980s", according to an Amnesty International report published today.

The report, which says executions are continuing, puts the number at 5,000 in the past three years and will be a further blow to Iran's overtures to the West for closer relations and greater trade and investment.

A special United Nations envoy, who visited Tehran earlier this year with the permission of the authorities, published a critical report on the regime's human rights record.

As a result 32 American senators have called for additional

investigation of the Iranian actions, and a draft resolution condemning its human-rights violations is being prepared for the UN General Assembly.

Diplomatic sources at the United Nations said yesterday that European Community representatives, conscious of their governments' closer relations with Iran, were watering down the draft resolution. The Amnesty report may complicate their task.

Amnesty calls on the Iranians to end more than a decade of "relentless and ruthless violations of the most basic human rights".

More than a hundred prisoners were reportedly executed in September alone, it says, and government critics have been arrested and tortured, in many cases just for signing a letter critical of the lack of rights and freedoms in the country.

Former political prisoners told Amnesty that the "Death Commission" consisted of representatives of the Islamic revolutionary courts, the revolutionary prosecutor's office, and the intelligence ministry. During July 1988 commission members subjected political prisoners to a form of trial in prison. Former prisoners described how, if their views were unacceptable, groups

were executed after only cursory interrogation.

Many executions in Iran, says Amnesty, are attributed to drug-trafficking offences. In six months last year at least 1,100 alleged traffickers were executed, and the number of executions for the same offence in the first six months of this year was at a record level.

In September alone a hundred people convicted of drug-trafficking were executed within two weeks, the organisation says, accusing the Iranian government of being "apparently intoxicated with the death penalty".

People who fell foul of the regime were denied legal counsel, had no right to call defence witnesses and no right of appeal. They were often executed within days of arrest.

Amnesty says it has repeatedly sought to discuss its concerns over human rights in Iran with responsible ministers and other officials in Tehran but has received no replies to its requests.

State-run Tehran Radio dismissed the Amnesty report as unfounded and said it was published to put pressure on Iran to change its Gulf policy. Iran has denounced the American-led military build-up as well as Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Soviet contract workers free to leave Baghdad

FROM NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD

IRAQI backed away from a growing confrontation with the Soviet Union yesterday and announced that, starting today, all 3,300 Soviet contract workers would be allowed to leave.

In a statement by the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, Baghdad said it was taking the decision after Moscow had threatened to use force if any of its nationals were mistreated. "Any Soviet export wishing to leave will be free to go as of Wednesday provided the Soviet government alone bears the responsibility for the effects of breach of contracts," a spokesman said.

Baghdad recently has grown increasingly concerned that Moscow's diplomatic support for UN actions could translate into a military commitment to the multinational forces in Saudi Arabia and that it would use its stranded workers in Iraq as a pretext for action.

President Saddam Hussein had promised to allow 1,000 Soviet nationals to return home by the end of last month. But only 300 Russians were allowed to go and the authorities stopped issuing exit visas. The Iraqi move was possibly calculated to influence last week's UN Security Council vote, which set a deadline for it to withdraw from Kuwait and opened the way for military action in January.

Far from being intimidated by Iraq's tactic, Moscow voted in favour of the resolution and, in an interview with *Pravda*, Eduard Shevardnadze, the foreign minister, said: "We will take all necessary steps in this case. Everyone should know that we will not hesitate to use force to protect our citizens."

The Soviet Union, which has by far the largest expatriate community in Iraq, is committed to a number of lucrative projects in the country, including the running of key oilfields in southern Iraq and technical assistance on Soviet-made military equipment, which forms the bulk of the Iraqi arsenal. There are still an estimated 30 or 40 Russian military personnel working for Baghdad.

Although many of the Russian expatriates want to remain in Iraq to earn hard currency salaries, some workers at the Rumaila oilfield near the Kuwait border have recently complained to their embassy of deteriorating living conditions and meagre food supplies provided by Iraq.

Another indication of Moscow's growing impatience occurred last week when a group of visiting Soviet journalists, on a trip paid for by Iraq, were ordered by their editors to return home and turn down a possible interview with President Saddam.

The last time Soviet citizens were held hostage in the Middle

East was five years ago when four diplomats were kidnapped in Beirut. The KGB and its Druze militia allies acted swiftly against the Shia Muslim abductors and three of the men were free within weeks. The fourth was killed by his kidnappers when he tried to escape.

Until the invasion of Kuwait, Iraq had enjoyed long and friendly relations with the Soviet Union dating from 1972, when the two countries ratified a 15-year friendship treaty.

Ties became strained a decade ago when the ruling Baath party instigated a purge against the pro-Soviet Iraqi Communist party and President Saddam denounced communism as "a rotten, atheistic, yellow storm which has plagued Iraq".

During the war with Iran, however, Baghdad relied principally on the Soviet Union for arms and military expertise.

Briton is suspected victim of suicide

Dhahran — Investigations continued yesterday into the suspected suicide of a member of the 18,000-strong British force now based in the Gulf (Christopher Walker writes). A British military spokesman disclosed that Corporal Richard Goings, aged 30, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, had been found dead of a gunshot at Jubail, northeast of Dhahran, last Friday.

The spokesman added that the release of details had been delayed until the next of kin had been informed. He said the corporal was the second of the British contingent in the Gulf to die, the first being the pilot of a Jaguar jet aircraft killed when his plane crashed last month.

Nearly fifty members of the 270,000-strong United States contingent have died accidentally. According to military sources, one death was a confirmed suicide.

Guerrillas killed

Beirut — A Palestinian guerrilla was killed and two Israeli soldiers were wounded in a clash with an Israeli patrol inside the security zone in southern Lebanon, security sources said. They said an Israeli patrol of the Givati Brigade clashed with guerrillas of the Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine trying to infiltrate northern Israel.

Role stepped up

Canberra — Australia is stepping up its role in the Gulf, Bob Hawke, the prime minister, announced here. He told parliament that economic sanctions did not appear to be working, and Australia was therefore putting the destroyer Brisbane, frigate Sydney and supply vessel Success under American operational control.

Japan sends envoy

Tokyo — Stung by criticism that it has failed to help its hostages in Iraq, Japan is sending an envoy on a three-day mission to Baghdad and drawing up a contingency plan in advance of the United Nations' January 15 deadline for Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait. (Reuter)

Fire cuts oil output

Cairo — A fire at the world's biggest oil refinery in Saudi Arabia cut output by nearly half oil industry sources in the Gulf said. Output at Ras Tannurah, 160 miles south of occupied Kuwait and a supplier of fuel for the multinational force confronting Iraq, had fallen by 230,000 barrels a day to about 300,000, the sources said. (Reuter)

PLO loss '£1 bn'

Cairo — The Palestine Liberation Organisation believes it has lost \$2 billion (£1.03 billion) in income since Iraq invaded Kuwait, Palestinian sources said. They said the PLO's income had been slashed by about 50 per cent because Arab benefactors thought it ungrateful for not condemning the invasion. (Reuter)

Major to hold talks with Israeli leader

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

JOHN Major is to hold talks with Yitzhak Shamir, his Israeli counterpart, at Downing Street tomorrow at a time when Britain is considering supporting a United Nations Security Council resolution giving the UN a greater role in solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Such a move would displease Jerusalem, which is thought to regard Britain as the country most likely, after the United States, to help it avoid a greater UN involvement. Discussions on a new resolution are expected to begin in New York today under the chairmanship of Yemen, which has been less critical of Iraq than the other 14 members of the council.

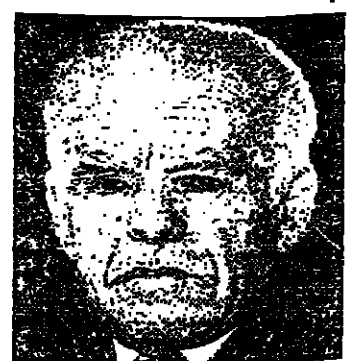
Britain would want any resolution to avoid an implied linkage between the Kuwait and Palestinian issues. Any suggestion that

Yemen was using its position to help Baghdad would lose London's support. But texts put forward by the non-aligned group and others are understood to deal with the Israeli-Palestinian issue separately.

Britain supported resolution 672, which reflected international concern after the killing of 20 Palestinian demonstrators at Temple Mount on October 4. Israel refused to accept a UN investigation. Mr Major's meeting with Mr Shamir will be his first with a leader of a country with which Britain has important policy differences since he became prime minister.

Mr Shamir will stay in Britain for less than 24 hours before flying to New York to meet Jewish groups, and then to Washington to see President Bush next week.

© JERUSALEM: The newspaper



Shamir: meeting Mr Major before flying to America. Yediot Ahronoth yesterday published a full-page 1991 colour businessman's calendar of expected Palestinian protest days in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. (Reuter)

Lawyers take on Godfather yet again

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

THE most celebrated plumbing salesman in New York is again heading for the dock. John Gotti, better known as the Godfather of the Gambinos, America's most powerful Mafia family, owes his return to "beating the rap" three times in the last four years, a feat that has earned him respect in the underworld for invincibility. One might think prosecutors would be none too keen to tackle the formidable Mr Gotti so soon after his last court triumph earlier this year, but that is not the case, according to the local media, which follow the fortunes of the Mob with the fervour that their British brethren devote to the royal family. So much glory will go to the man who finally nails the dapper alleged don that two federal prosecutors were involved in a feud over the right to bring charges.

Last week the Justice Department ruled in favour of Andrew Maloney, the Brooklyn prosecutor, giving him his second chance to haul in Mr Gotti on charges of racketeering. This time an additional murder charge is expected, thanks to the evidence of Philip Leonetti, an

informer who is to testify he heard Mr Gotti boast that he ordered the execution of Big Paul Castellano, his predecessor as chief of the Gambinos, outside a restaurant in Manhattan in 1985. Mr Leonetti's future health prospects are the subject of widespread conjecture in the coffee shops of Manhattan.

Other evidence will include more from the Gotti tapes, the vast collection of conversations secretly recorded by the FBI, in which the alleged Mafia chief can be heard conducting business from the Bergen Fish and

Hunt Club, the establishment in which he spends much of his time. The conversations, in a disjointed code of obscenities and allusion, have come to represent something of a benchmark for Mobtalk. They helped polish, for example, the dialogue in Martin Scorsese's new film *GoodFellas*.

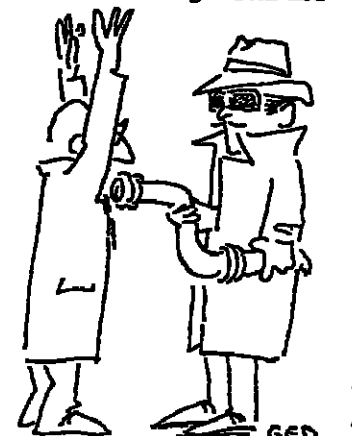
And last week, officials revealed that the Mafia was moving with the ecological times, competing to dominate the new recycling game, called the "greening of the Mob" by the media.

While the Mob has been making "green money", it seems to have neglected that other lucrative phenomenon, known as the "greying of America". Economists have been arguing for years that there would be a huge market generated by the aging of the 76 million eternal teenagers born in the years of the baby boom. This Christmas shopping season has produced the first evidence that manufacturers have now taken note that the eyes of the older boomers are now well into their fifth decade. Book shops are sporting new "large-print" sections which

offer big-type versions of bestsellers printed on ultra-thin paper which keeps down the overall size of the volumes.

You can buy board games in similar format. Shearson-Lehman, the stockbroker chain, is printing its offerings in larger type and *Forbes*, the business magazine, has retitled its typeface to making reading easier on older eyes. General Motors, the purveyor of the Corvettes, Firebirds and those other youth-mobiles of the 60s and 70s, is offering "head-up" speedometers that project their figures onto the windscreen, removing the need to refocus the eyes.

The season of goodwill is back with its usual force, despite the economic depression now looming over the Big Apple. The tree has been lit in the Rockefeller Centre, now under Japanese ownership, and bank tellers and policemen have switched from "have a nice day" to "happy holidays". The new hard times are, however, visible. Santa and Twinkle Toes have been booted from their traditional post at the headquarters of the *Daily News* on 42nd Street, victims of the strike which has crippled the newspaper.



GEB.

Gorbachev to root out food shop profiteers

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev has promised to root out black marketeering of food in a programme designed to ease severe shortages this winter. A survey of 50 state stores found that "when they close, they have a third shift" during which employees sell food illegally, Mr Gorbachev told parliament yesterday.

Shop assistants often set aside choice goods to sell later at inflated prices and pocketed additional profits.

"Within the next two or three weeks, we think we can control the situation," Mr Gorbachev said. He added that he was planning to increase food supplies from domestic and overseas sources, and he had secured loans and credits to import flour, sugar, vegetable oil, margarine, meat, milk products and eggs.

The government was also stepping up its construction programme for food processing, and would set aside 12 million acres for "individual farming" in an attempt to increase domestic production, Mr Gorbachev said. He did not specify what types of food processing industries would be developed, or whether the additional land for individual farming would be owned by private farmers or collective farms.

Securitate files are taken over

Bucharest - Romania's justice ministry said yesterday it was taking over thousands of files from the former Securitate, the secret police of the executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. A spokesman said about 150,000 files were being taken over because they were directly related to the work of the ministry.

Opposition newspapers and groups have been demanding that the files and activities of the Securitate be made public. At the height of Ceausescu's power the organisation had 70,000 agents. (Reuters)

Liner damaged

Saint-Nazaire - Fire destroyed the forward section of Monarch of the Seas, a new US-Norwegian Royal Caribbean Cruise Line luxury ship being readied at a shipyard here for sea trials on December 21. The yard's manager said the ship's stern and most of its machinery were undamaged. (AFP)

Mir rendezvous

Moscow - The spacecraft carrying Toyohiro Akiyama, a Japanese astronaut, docked with the orbiting Soviet space station, Mir. Mr Akiyama is the first Japanese to go into space. (Reuters)

Fans defect

Oslo - Two dozen Romanian volleyball supporters refused to return home after a European Cup match and some applied for political asylum, police said here. The University of Oslo team, failed to turn up for a charter flight home. (AP)

Taxing business

Catania - Sicilian shopkeepers and businessmen who have to pay protection money to the Mafia on top of taxes, have suggested that extortion should be a tax-deductible business expense. (Reuters)

Russian deputies warned of economic slump

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE Russian federation faces a big drop in oil exports and declining output of coal, timber and some key metals, according to a report presented to its legislators as they gathered to press for greater economic independence.

The document, prepared by Russia's state committee on the economy, indicates the extent of the breakdown in central planning and the chaos that may ensue as the largest Soviet republic lurches towards a market economy.

It was presented to the Russian Congress of People's Deputies as the republic's government, headed by Boris Yeltsin, sought a mandate for a radical economic course and increased autonomy from the central Soviet authorities.

The report gives a warning that its predictions may not take full account of inflation, and predicts a 3 per cent drop in Russia's national income next year. Other black spots include a dive in exports to 71 million tonnes from 120 million this year, presumably owing in part to the end of subsidised sales to Eastern Europe.

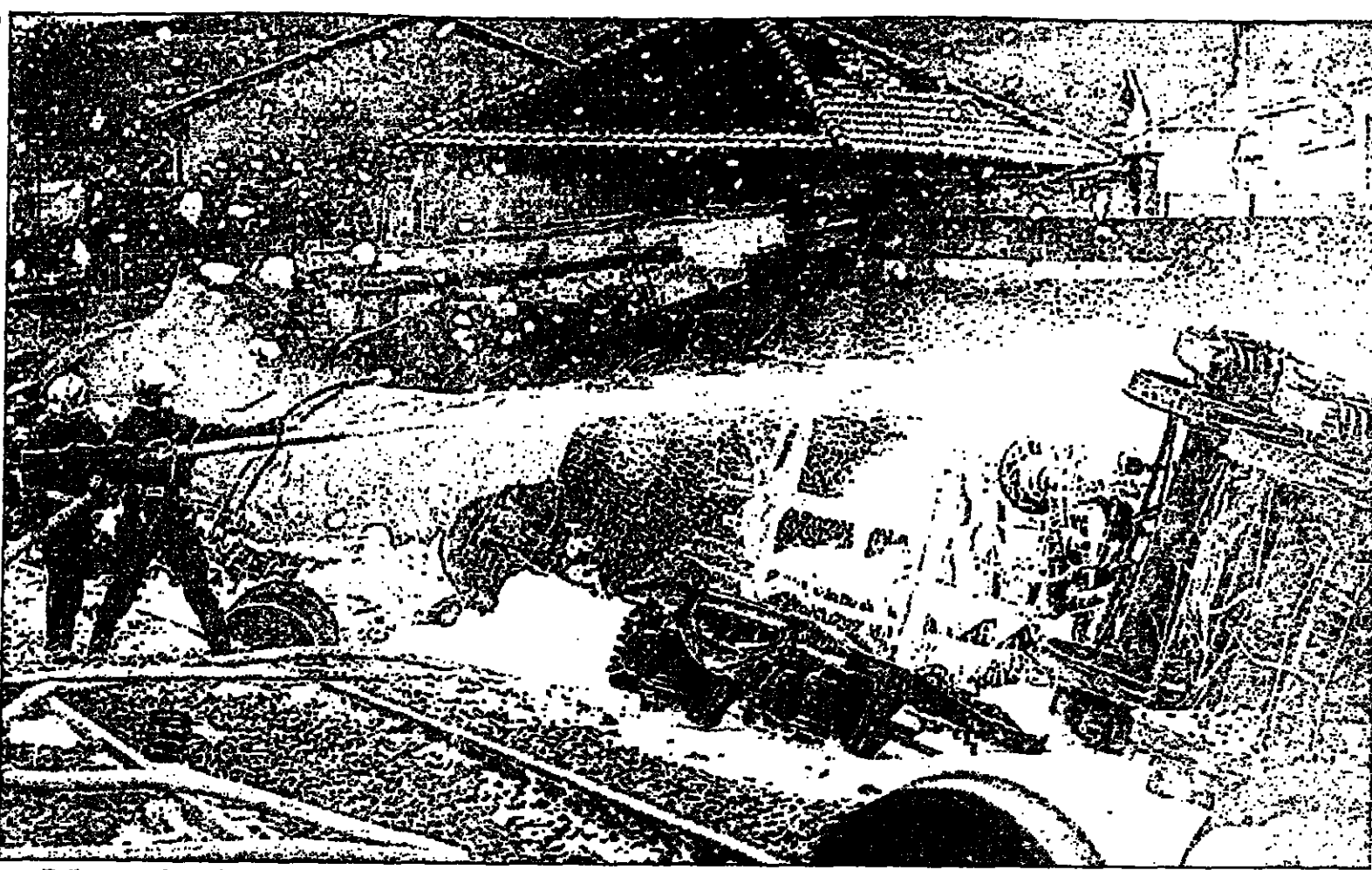
The report projects increases in housing construction and the output of electricity, basic chemicals and consumer goods, but Ivan Silayev, the Russian prime minister, issued a warning that there would not be an early easing in the acute shortages of consumer goods.

Mr Silayev, a respected moderate, deplored the central Soviet authorities' financial profligacy. He said Russia's textile industry was "paralysed" because foreign suppliers, fearful of bad debts, had suspended deliveries.

He called for the republic to retain a much bigger share of export earnings. He also wanted a Russian say in energy and transport policies affecting the whole Soviet Union, an independent Russian prosecutor, and Russian control over the scores of factories now being switched from military to civilian production.



Yeltsin: may have to help shore up the economy



Railway wreckage: firemen spraying foam over a derailed freight train in the Loire valley, about 30 miles south of Lyons. Petrol in some of the train's 22 wagons fuelled the blaze, which raged out of control for eight hours, destroying four homes. There were no casualties

Liberals give Kohl ultimatum

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

DESPITE his election triumph, Helmut Kohl will not be re-elected as chancellor if he refuses to adopt a plan by the liberal Free Democrats for making eastern Germany into a low-tax area, Count Otto Lambsdorff, the party leader, makes clear in an interview with *Bild*, published today.

The chancellor needs the support of the 79 FDP Bundestag members in order to command a majority with his Christian Democrats (CDU), and Count Otto started a first round of negotiations with Herr Kohl on forming a new coalition yesterday, determined to have his way.

If the FDP's tax plan was not accepted then Herr Kohl would not have the party's support when the Bundestag meets in Berlin on December 20 to pick the chancellor for the next four years.

The FDP plan, outlined in *Bild*, is to put a ceiling of 40 per cent on company tax in eastern Germany, compared with the top level of 65 per cent in the west. Individual income tax levels for anyone working in the east would also be reduced by between 20 and 25 per cent, whether or not they chose to actually live in the west. The tax relief would also apply to foreign com-

panies deciding to set up a business in eastern Germany.

Herr Kohl derided this plan during the election as being no more than a leftover from the years that the FDP spent in government with the Social Democratic Party. "That's what they get from lying in the same bed as socialists for so long," he told election rallies.

Count Otto, however, said yesterday that he was determined to push the plan through. He said the FDP believed this was the surest way to attract investment quickly and also minimise the tax burden on the local population without forcing up salaries and inflation.

The tax idea also has the support of Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister and the FDP's dominant personality. In an interview with *Der Spiegel* he said that although his party was stronger than before, it was not necessarily seeking more ministries. What the FDP wanted was to introduce priorities for the speedy development of the east, including making it a low-tax area.

Herr Kohl had talks yesterday with Theo Waigel, leader of the Christian Social Union, the Bavarian sister party of the CDU. The two

then met Count Otto for a first round of bargaining over ministries and coalition politics. Figures released during the day helped to support the chancellor's election claim that it would be possible to pay for restructuring eastern Germany without any increase in taxation levels.

The figures, covering the third quarter of the year, show the economy growing at 5.5 per cent, higher than at any time since 1976. At the same time unemployment in the west over the quarter was 122,000 less than in the same period last year. The main factor in this growth has been the enormous demand for consumer goods after German economic union on July 1.

While Herr Kohl set about building a government for the next four years, the SPD was struggling to find a someone capable of leading them in the forlorn period of opposition ahead.

Its candidate in the election, Oskar Lafontaine, announced that he was determined to plunge back into local state politics in his native Saarland, and Hans-Jochen Vogel, the party chairman for the past four years, said he would definitely not be seeking re-election at the next party

conference in May.

This came as a double blow to the party, which needs strong leadership to hold it together after a third consecutive election defeat if it is to mount a credible challenge to Helmut Kohl and his Christian Democrats in four years' time. After an election campaign which drew harsh criticism from SPD elder statesmen such as the former chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, there is talk of a serious split opening in the party if someone does not take a firm hand quickly.

For all the controversy surrounding him, Herr Lafontaine remains the party's dominant thinker and his campaign has committed the SPD in opposition to fight for new measures to protect the environment through taxation as the number one priority. This idea found favour with the bulk of the working population since exit polls showed that the majority of voters in the 25 to 39 age group voted SPD, even if the youngest voters of all supported Herr Kohl's unification bandwagon.

Herr Lafontaine had always said that if he lost he would go back to the Saarland, where he has built an impressive power base, rather than stay on in Bonn. Herr Vogel, however, who is tired after leading the party since he lost to Herr Kohl in 1987, had expected to be able to stand down in favour of the chancellor candidate and the party believed that Herr Lafontaine would in the end be dragged into accepting.

According to Reinhold Kopp, one of Herr Lafontaine's closest advisors in the Saarland, it is still quite possible that he may go back into national politics.

Mussolini son to sue over misuse of 'fascist'

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN ROME

VITTORIO, oldest son of Mussolini, the second world war fascist dictator, has been granted leave to sue the Italian state railway and the mayor of Bologna for describing the bombing of Bologna railway station in 1980 as a fascist act.

The bombing, like so many terrorist acts of the late 1970s in Italy, has never been satisfactorily explained. However, a plaque at the station listing the names of the 85 people killed attributes their deaths to "an act of fascist terrorism".

Last July the sentences of several right-wingers convicted of staging the attack were quashed after new evidence failed to link them to it. Signor Mussolini then asked the Bologna authorities if they would remove the word fascist from the plaque. Not surprisingly, he is highly sensitive to inaccurate uses of the term whose philosophy his father created.

His lawyers said yesterday that by using the term fascist in a broad, general and ultimately inaccurate sense, the Bologna authorities were committing an "act of defamation" against the family of Mussolini. The Bologna magistrate, Bruno Ciccone, agreed, ruling that Signor Mussolini could pursue a legal course to remove the word from the plaque.

The decision was hailed by many as conclusive evidence that "irrational antipathy" to the legacy of Mussolini was finally over.

Bulgarian opposition left in disarray as party leader goes

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SOFIA

BULGARIA'S main opposition party MPs yesterday afternoon did not know if they still had a leader. On Monday Petar Beron, the head of the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), announced his "intention to resign" amid allegations that he had been a secret police informer during Bulgaria's years of communism. In a widely disbelieved statement Mr Beron, who is the UDF candidate for prime minister, said that he wanted to resign

so that he could "return to his career as a scientist". He then left for Italy.

Yesterday, despondent UDF MPs argued that Mr Beron's "intention to resign" meant that he had not gone yet. They said they had seen no proof that he had been a police spy.

The main source of the allegations is Dr Konstantine Trenchev, the leader of the independent trade union Podkrepa. Dr Trenchev said:

"Beron was known to the secret police by the codename 'Bontcho'. The UDF agreed to nominate him as prime minister, but two weeks ago an article appeared in the socialist newspaper *Duma* which said that socialist leaders knew who 'Bontcho' was. From then on he understood that it was impossible for him to stay on in this position. 'Bontcho' is Beron."

Last week Dr Trenchev's trade union movement began a general strike which brought down the government of Andrei Lukin. The UDF and the socialists are now negotiating a form of coalition government. While some opposition figures, such as the militantly anti-socialist Dr Trenchev, are known to be against the coalition, others, including Mr Beron, want to participate. The UDF leader has also made known his ambition to be prime minister.

Parliament in Sofia was last night awash with rumours. One UDF MP, Krassen Stanchev, suggested that the party leader was the victim, not of a socialist plot, nor the casualty of his known disagreements with Dr Trenchev, but had been pushed by erstwhile colleagues who wanted to replace him with a more hardline anti-socialist party leader.

Danes to vote on EC reform

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLET IN COPENHAGEN

WITH a general election due a week from today, Denmark's political parties have broadly agreed to hold a national referendum in the first half of 1992 on European Community plans for social, economic and political integration.

Shortly before losing the Conservative leadership contest, Margaret Thatcher called for a referendum in Britain to decide whether it would abandon the pound in favour of a single European currency, a key element in the Delors plan for monetary union. The issue raised by the then prime minister was widely seen as unsuitable for a referendum.

Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the Liberal foreign minister, said yesterday in an interview in *Borsen*, Denmark's leading financial daily newspaper, that the referendum would be needed because the election had been brought forward to next week, following the collapse of negotiations last month between the 30-month-old Conservative-Liberal government and the opposition Social Democrats on a state budget for 1991, and an economic reform package. The interview also reported Ritt Bjerregaard, a former Social Democratic education minister and now the party's foreign policy spokeswoman, as agreeing with Mr Ellemann-Jensen on holding the referendum.

The timing of the election, which opinion polls forecast as being a close-run affair between the ruling centre-right groups and the opposition, will make it difficult for Denmark to decide on key European economic and monetary union issues at the two-day Rome summit, due to start next Friday.

The parties' agreement means parliament has the consensus it needs for the vote. Denmark has so far held two referendums on Europe. In 1972, two-thirds of Danes endorsed EC membership along with Britain and Ireland; and in 1986 they voted 56 per cent in favour of Luxembourg reforms designed to pave the way for the Single European Act.

Denmark, long one of the most lukewarm community members and second only to Britain in its scepticism about Europe, has recently undergone a sea change in its attitude. The breaching of the Berlin Wall concentrated Danish minds on Europe, reminding them of the danger of an all-powerful German neighbour and rekindling bitter memories of the loss of Schleswig-Holstein to Prussia in 1864 and the Nazi occupation of 1940-5.

The change of attitude reflects economic realities, as well as a general consensus that EC institutions should be strengthened, to guarantee that the united Germany is firmly anchored in an integrated Europe.

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Parisian tempers in over-drive at new speed limit

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

THESE are desperate times for the motorists of Paris, whose comprehensive lack of respect for the code of the road sets them apart, even in a nation of famously dangerous drivers. Last weekend a new inner-city speed limit of 50kph (30mph) came into effect: at the same time, the use of rear seat belts became compulsory for most vehicles.

As sensible Parisians freely concede over the dinner table, both those measures, which now apply in all French towns of any size, make compelling sense. Their combined effect could be to reduce the carnage on the nation's roads by up to 1,000 a year. Trials in Surasbourg, St Etienne and Limoges have already

wheel and they are transformed into snarling, speed-mad bullies whose "75" number plate is rightly feared throughout the land. The idea that they, of all people, should be restricted to a piffling 50kph and obliged to waste a few seconds on every journey chunk-clicking in the back seat is perceived as intolerable.

Thus, experimenting lawfully on one of the main avenues the Sunday new limit was introduced, your correspondent ran the gauntlet of booing, headlight flashing and the vivid gestures that Parisians reserve for those who get in their way. A French reporter who tried sticking to 50kph on the first working day fared even worse, with outraged motorists

prefect of Paris, it was originally intended to apply the reduced limit to the *peripherique* that encircles the capital. When not jammed solid, it is a daunting racetrack, almost every yard of which carries ominous skid marks. On mature reflection, M Verbrugge decided, "it would have been very difficult to obtain respect for 50kph".

The rear seat belt law is also straining tempers. Not far from *The Times* office, one offender almost came to blows with the policeman booking him - minimum fine 150 francs (£15). He was adamant that there had been no advance warning about this insufferable regulation.

In fact, Paris has been plastered with posters announcing its introduc-

think I'm going to spend my life in first gear?" demanded the driver of a Porsche caught speeding near the Arc de Triomphe (minimum penalty 1,300 francs).

Although the police chief has promised "implacable" application of the latest measures, doubts persist. The concept of good citizenship is not deeply rooted in the average Parisian soul. Drivers still stamp on the gas whenever the traffic clears momentarily, and still menace pedestrians with rubber-burning getaways at the lights. More people are now being killed on foot in Paris than in cars.

As for seat belts in the back, the fine is levied not on drivers but on the offending passengers (even if not

Stick to the bare text

Bernard Richards

Many people have been perturbed to hear that that ITV is to screen a version of *Pride and Prejudice* showing Darcy in the nude. They are ruffled by the prospect of a novelist thought to be a laureate of polite tea-tables being treated like *Oh Calcutta!* There are good reasons for disapproving, but my objections are not based on moral principles; they are more theoretical and aesthetic.

The argument for nudity might be that there must have been nudity in the Regency, and that Austen was demonstrably not squeamish about sex. It has been claimed that with a little encouragement she could have been the Thomas Rowlandson of the literary world, giving full rein to sexual exuberance and rollicking energy. Within her published work there are enough fully-fledged grotesques to stock a whole range of Rowlandson prints. Fanny Price's father, roasting with his Portsmouth cronies, certainly belongs to that world. In her letters, Austen shows herself the very opposite of the mealy-mouthed proto-Victorian spinster some readers admire. It might be good for her reputation if she were presented as a soul-sister of Jackie Collins.

Many of those who love Jane Austen speak of her novels as realistic. She evoked, it is claimed, the real world of her time, but did not need to resort to it for her contemporaries. Modern adapters need to flesh out that world and present it more explicitly for less well-informed audiences. Of course, a film makes that world solidly present, so that cabinets, chairs, skirts, bonnets, pelisses and what-not continually jostle for attention with psychological action. Sometimes scripts are built around these props, and this is where gross faults of interpretation occur. Watching such adaptations, one feels that the novels are pretenses for trips to the Disney-world of the past, where landaus sail through the streets and the Sheraton and Hepplewhite furniture is brand new.

But there is a fatal flaw in this approach: Jane Austen is not a realistic novelist. Her novels are written according to an austere and highly artificial system. There is a chilly remoteness in the way she writes, an unfeeling stylistic discrimination. The principal characters speak a formal and graceful abstract language which corresponds to the elegant discourse of the narrative voice. They do not belch or fart, they do not go to the bathroom, they do not have sex, they do not eat, they do not drink and their clothes are laundered in heaven. Only the minor characters speak in raucous idioms and are trapped in the contingencies of the physical world. The last place one would go for documentation about how the landed gentry spoke and behaved in the early 19th

century is a Jane Austen novel. There was a typical misapprehension in the Fey Weldon TV adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. Elizabeth Bennet was on tour with the Gardiners in Derbyshire, and was much distressed to find her clothes creased when she took them out of a trunk. Mrs Gardiner calmed her by advising her to hang them up. Needless to say this is not in the novel, since no major characters ever need to bother about such things — the author has decreed that their costumes should at all times be effortlessly perfect. Fey Weldon imagined how a real Elizabeth Bennet might have faced a minor practical problem in the real world, and wrote it into the script. But Elizabeth Bennet is not in the real world, but in the systematised world of an intelligent novelist.

Adaptations should match the technical strategies of the original. A Jane Austen novel, like any good novel, is a work of art, not a photograph, so to present Darcy in the nude is the same kind of solecism as showing Elizabeth's creased clothes: it is precipitating that fictional world into a historical world, using data from other sources. The corollary is that the sexual explicitness was eliminated would perform the same kind of disservice to the original: the shock generated by his text needs to find its equivalent in a film, and reticence here would be illegitimate as explicitness in an Austen film.

The controversy is quite different from the fuss about the lesbian scenes in the recent *Portrait of a Marriage* about Vita Sackville-West. I support the decision to show those, since *Vita did live in a real world*. A film presenting a biography of a historical figure has every right to piece it out with knowledge of the age. Nigel Nicolson was shocked because he had not fully imagined such scenes, but scenes like them must have taken place, and the producers were under no obligation to match his reticence. In translating a fictional world to the screen, however, different criteria apply.

At the end of *Mansfield Park*, Jane Austen invites readers to augment the story with information from their own experiences, and this might be interpreted as the novelist's invitation to readers to write their own novels, and to adaptors to piece out the plots to their hearts' content. I do not think it should be interpreted this way — it is more of a witty sign-off, an amusing signal that Austen has taken the plot so far that it no longer interests her. In a sense it should be seen as a discouragement. Readers are, of course, at liberty to write their own novels, and film-makers to make films — so long as they do not pretend they are Jane Austen's.

The author is Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

Sources close to the former prime minister tell me that Mr Bernard Ingham has been making his presence felt on the streets of Dulwich every bit as forcefully as in the corridors of Westminster. For the meticulous fixer has taken over the day-to-day running of Mrs Thatcher's retirement home with customary aplomb. This news came to me through a series of leaked memos to the Dulwich milkmen which recently landed on my desk. "Three pints today, Mr Milko, please" ran the first, dated November 25. Straightforward, you might think, but the next memo, dated November 26 ran, "There is widespread concern being voiced by senior figures in the Dulwich household that the milk delivered yesterday (November 25) will go off in a matter of days. If dissatisfaction continues, Mr Milko may well find his job on the line. This memo is, of course, unattributable".

The very next day, *The Dulwich Echo* announced that Mr Milko had decided, with great regret, to tender his resignation. The full text ran: "Dear Mrs Thatcher, it is with great regret that I offer my resignation. I have greatly enjoyed the challenge of working alongside you for these past 24 hours, but I believe it is time to make room for someone younger. I am proud to have been involved in the tremendous achievement of the past 24 hours, and in particular to have played my part in the speedy delivery of three (3) pints yesterday morning".

Observers were quick to detect Ingham's influence. Only yesterday, Mr — now Lord — Milko started his short-awaited memoirs, *My Life in Dairy Products*. In the index under "M", I can reveal, is the entry "Milk, I successfully deliver three pints to Mrs Thatcher, 37-68, Flessed, Mrs Thatcher, 68-73; Questions raised, 73-79; Reputation suffers 99-115; Resignation 116-128; Sulk, I decide to spend my time 128-210. See also: Ingham, Bernard".

The story does not end there. On the 27th, the Dulwich news-

paper boy, Tab Lloyd, found himself in similar difficulties. "I had been delivering newspapers for three full days, and Mrs Thatcher had never complained," he says. "In fact, she always gave the impression of complete satisfaction. It was only when colleagues began to look shifty as I bicycled towards them that I began to suspect something was up." Sure enough, without a word to Tab Lloyd, Ingham had informed Dulwich tradesmen (non-attributable) that the Thatcher household was far from satisfied with the newspaper deliveries, following the mysterious planting of a *Morning Star* inside a copy of *The Daily Telegraph*.

On the 28th, *The Dulwich Echo* printed the following letter: "Dear Mrs Thatcher, I am delighted to accept your most generous offer of the post of Deputy Newspaper Boy. It is with some regret that I find myself giving up my previous responsibility for delivering newspapers. Nevertheless, I fully agree with you that in my new post I will be in a much better position to ponder long-term policy apropos delivery, without the need to involve myself in the day-to-day business of putting papers through doors." Oddly enough, as this letter was issued, Mr Ingham was making it widely known that the role of Deputy Newspaper Boy was a mere "courtesy title" with "no real status".

Undoubtedly the most significant group in Dulwich to find itself on the wrong side of Ingham has been the carol singers. Some believe that their big mistake was openly to voice wet sentiments contrary to economic reality. Arriving at the gates singing "Gentle Jesus Meek and Mild", they were delighted when Mrs Thatcher declared herself "enchanted". Little did they realise that at the back door, Mr Ingham was distributing non-attributable tracts denouncing their efforts as "tuneless" and "distressing". An announcement is expected shortly concerning the carol singers' intention to spend rather more time with their families.

Norman Tebbit proposes a sweeping package of local government and educational reform

How Britain could love the poll tax

Everyone, it now seems, is committed to review, modify, reform or repeal the poll tax, its advocates having lost even the battle over its name. The aspiration is one thing. Finding a popular alternative is another. No one in his right mind would go back to the rates. As Mr Kinnock once said in a rare moment of clarity, rates are "the most unjust of all taxes", taking most "from those who can least afford".

What is more, Scottish domestic revaluation proved a political bombshell in the same league as the poll tax itself. Local income tax is an absurdity. If fixed at a uniform national rate, local government finance would simply be transferred to income tax and power from the town halls to Whitehall. If fixed locally, the appalling problems of collection at hundreds of different rates and redistributors from a collection of points to town halls would be an administrative nightmare. The central payroll computers of banks and other national chains with employees in almost every local authority area would blow fuses if confronted by such a task.

In short, even Mr Heseltine

deserves sympathy in dealing with the ghastly mess he has pulled off the cabinet table into his lap. Short-term fixes designed to ease the electoral unpopularity inherent in asking local electors to pay for what they vote for should be delayed until the long-term answer to the problem is agreed. The concept is not difficult to devise, but to carry it through would require time, good management, political courage and presential skills somewhat lacking in recent years.

The arguments that persuaded the government to adopt the community charge are as strong as ever. The concept of a charge to finance a modest proportion of local expenditure, paid by all local electors at the same rate in each authority, introduced at a modest level, but highly geared to ensure that increases in spending would require sharp increases in the charge is a good one. Nor is it unpopular. The dustmen of Westminster do not seem to complain much that they pay the same as the Duke of Westminster, since £195 a year for first-class services is seen as a bargain, especially with the grisly examples of Haringey, Lam-

beth and Camden for services that shock the meaning of the word. However, such happy examples are too few. The government seriously underestimated the extent to which electors in two-tier authorities would be confused, and the extent to which most councils, of all political hues, would set out on a spending spree under the cover of the change-over from the rates. The poll-tax theory — that high spending would attract unpopularity — was right, but the government has incurred the odium, not the councils.

The best way forward is to get back to the original concept. That requires universal, single-tier authorities of reasonable size (no more vast metropolitan counties) so that local comparisons can be made, and a sharp reduction in the total expenditure to be financed locally. To avoid being caught again, the government would have to impose comprehensive capping of local government expenditure during the transition period.

All this can be achieved alongside a further step in educational reform. Virtually all schools should be taken out of political control and financed by central government

through fees for the number of pupils enrolled, bonuses for examination success and premium payments for disadvantaged pupils. Extra funding might come from charitable funds or commercial income (school buildings are too valuable to be closed for a third of the year), or from commercial borrowing against fee income or mortgages on new buildings. Progressively, local education authorities would be abolished: this would not only offer real savings but would encourage office-bound ex-teachers to return to the classrooms. Schools would be free to prosper and grow or simply go out of business, with teachers paid on merit and for success.

A transfer of schools funding from the community charge to central taxation would severely limit the scope for income tax cuts in the short term, but cuts in the community charge would be equally popular, especially as these would reduce the retail price index, with consequent savings on index-linked benefits.

The abolition of local education authorities would leave the state county and district councils with too few functions to justify the

existence of both. No doubt the Conservative local government establishment would fight rationalisation, but there would be no shortage of opportunity for good councillors in the new structure. Mr Heseltine is in favour of single-tier authorities and could no doubt overcome any resistance.

The package is an attractive one: a reform of local government to offer real savings by eliminating one function and another; an improved schools system combining customer choice and new opportunities for education providers; and a substantial cut in the poll tax. The main costs would be a delay in the next round of income tax cuts, the tumult of yet further local government reform, the short-term odium of ruthless capping of councils' expenditure, and diarchal opposition from educationalists unwilling to relinquish well-paid jobs blocking parents' rights of choice.

At the end of it all, the poll tax would remain as the highly-gearred sanction against council profligacy. Like high interest rates, it would work. After all, it was the prime minister who said: "If it isn't hurting it isn't working."

Was there a conspiracy? Alan Walters has circumstantial evidence but no proof

'Get Thatcher', and they did

Foreigners find the fall of Mrs Thatcher incomprehensible. Even her political enemies recognise that she is in the pantheon of the great leaders of the century. She insisted on honesty, in her final days translating the gobbledygook of the EC's Rome summit meeting into plain English. The Delors plan for monetary union, she said, was "federalism by the back door".

This proved too much for Sir Geoffrey Howe, the hollow superficial nonsense he regularly serves up on Europe was exposed, and he resigned. This was not the first blow of Mrs Thatcher's political assassination, but it proved to be the fatal one.

Already the myths propagated by Sir Geoffrey, Nigel Lawson et al are being fed to the "quality" press. They are anxious to show how unreasonable, intransigent and downright wrong Mrs Thatcher was about Europe. At the height of the leadership crisis, the *Financial Times*, in articles by the political editor, Philip Stephens (November 14, 1990), and *The Economist* (November 24) told how on the eve of the Madrid conference in June 1989, after a tremendous row, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Nigel Lawson persuaded her to accept the so-called Madrid conditions for entering the exchange-rate mechanism. Mr Stephens said both Mr Lawson and Sir Geoffrey threatened to resign unless she accepted them.

I find this odd. It was at least three days before the meeting that I put into final form a memorandum setting out the so-called Madrid conditions. (In summary they were: a reduction of inflation in Britain to near the average of the ERM members; elimination of overt exchange controls; substantial reduction of covert exchange controls such as undue currency restrictions on portfolios, and the creation of a barrier-free market.) I am certain that before putting forward my memorandum, I had discussed the conditions with officials at both Number Ten and the Treasury. It seemed to me that those enthusiastic about entering the ERM were Sir Geoffrey and Mr Lawson (*in alio*) and those who were reluctant (Mrs Thatcher and other prominent Conservatives) could agree to settle on these conditions. I believed that Mrs Thatcher could



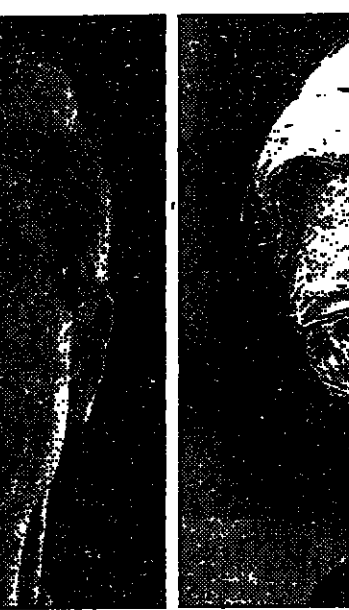
Walters (left): Howe resigned after exposure of his 'hollow, superficial nonsense' on Europe

present these as the basis of a consensus, and that she accepted them as such.

Obviously it was important to go to the Madrid summit with a proposal that the prime minister, the foreign secretary and the Chancellor (although he did not attend) could all fully support. Of course I was not present at the Howe-Lawson meeting with Mrs Thatcher, so I do not know what occurred there, but I do know that the compromise of the Madrid conditions came from Mrs Thatcher, and not after threats of resignation "imposed" upon her by the Howe-Lawson axis. Indeed my impression was exactly the opposite.

The anxiety of Sir Geoffrey and Mr Lawson to claim credit for Madrid was undoubtedly due to the widespread perception that it was a great success for the prime minister. But even at the time, the Howe camp's briefings let it be known that the prime minister had caved in to pressure from Sir Geoffrey and Mr Lawson (see, for example, *The Independent* of June 27, 1989). Philip Stephens went much further with his detailed description in the article of November 14, 1990.

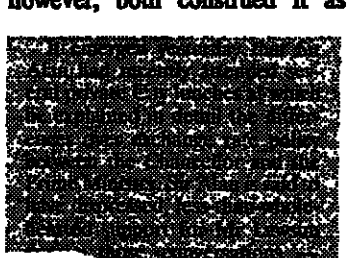
I do not know where he got his story from, but he is clearly a journalist who would rely only on a highly reputable source — which, in the circumstances, must surely mean Sir Geoffrey and/or Mr Lawson. Such misrepresentation



Walters (left): Howe resigned after exposure of his 'hollow, superficial nonsense' on Europe

is by no means an isolated incident in the attempt to discredit Mrs Thatcher.

In October 1989, in the *Financial Times*, I was represented as having recently written an article which condemned the ERM as "half-baked". Sir Geoffrey (standing in for Mrs Thatcher, who was in Malaysia) and Nigel Lawson both knew that my article which included this description had been written 18 months before, and so was old hat. In the Commons, however, both construed it as



From *The Independent* of June 15, 1989. "Only two lunches and no such talk", says Walters

though it were a current effusion.

Since 1988 I had widely distributed copies of this article, which consisted mainly of a potted autobiography, to the media, including the *Financial Times*. How odd that these distinguished journalists should suddenly discover what they regarded as something scandalous in the closing paragraphs. Because I could

not give interviews, and because the media were pressing me for biographical details, it seemed appropriate to respond by providing them with this autobiography (also in state).

The Independent had joined the hunt earlier in the summer with a front-page story by Messrs Torday and Bevins reporting that at boardroom lunches in the City I had been rubbishing the Chancellor's policy — with the clear implication that I had the prime minister's approval. Such innuendo, whatever its source, was typical of the many attempts to "get Thatcher". The two journalists did not of course reveal their sources. I can only recall two City lunches, at both of which I made it clear that I would not discuss current policy. The hosts agreed and there was no such talk.

The lunch I believe they had in mind was with the directors and group economist of Union Discount. Would any Union Discount director be likely to reveal what purported to be extraordinarily sensitive remarks from an occasion at which confidentiality was so important? In a letter of protest to *The Independent*, the chairman said such lunches have a long history and have had the most distinguished guests — including prime ministers and Chancellors — and no leak had ever occurred. For the get-rid-of-Thatcher gang, I was a splendid intermediate target. Because of my

position, I could not publish what I knew to be true or point out the implausibility of the Torday/Bevins story.

Was there a conspiracy? Some of my friends have argued that for such a concerted campaign to take place, there must have been. Although much of the evidence is consistent with that interpretation I have no direct evidence that there was any systematic conspiracy. It may all have been coincidental. The case is unproven.

Perhaps the first step on the slippery slope of Mrs Thatcher's decline was associated with my return to Number Ten in May 1989. I was a tempting target who could never hit back. But my views on the Chancellor's monetary policy from 1987-88 were well-known from previous newspaper articles and radio and television interviews. For example, Samuel Brittan of the *Financial Times* depicted me as a Rasputin-like figure.

I believe the second fatal move leading to Mrs Thatcher's overthrow was the transfer of Sir Geoffrey from the Foreign Office to deputy prime minister. His violation of the confidential discussion with the prime minister, when he let it be known that he had been offered Douglas Hurd's job, was clearly designed to detach Mr Hurd from the prime minister and to sow dissent in the party. Finally, my old and innocent little article, Mr Lawson's representation of me as a "running sore", and his resignation, helped to seal Mrs Thatcher's fate. The media were full of tales about her being overweening, out-of-touch, opposed to Europe and consensus, and, above all, an electoral liability.

Did Mrs Thatcher have the last laugh in ensuring the succession of John Major (who is said to be a neo-Thatcherite)? Up to a point, yes. John Major is unlikely to depart from any of the basic reforms of Thatcherism. But he is not driven by basic ideas or by vision of the sort of political and social order which set the agenda for the great Thatcher reforms. He appears to be a decent, well-liked, supremely efficient executive — rather like Edward Heath at his most promising in the 1960s. How will he behave under pressure: like a corporatist Heath or a libertarian Thatcher? We do not know.

A brush with the military

Fourteen weeks after his appointment as official artist of the Gulf crisis, John Keane has issued the Ministry of Defence with an ultimatum. Send him out soon or he will seek alternative sponsorship to take him there — the most obvious being a national newspaper. Keane says from his Hackney studio that since his appointment three months ago, he has not received a single phone call or letter from the ministry. What particularly disturbs him is that since the announcement of his £10,000 commission in August, he has been turning away work in anticipation of travelling to the Middle East to join the multinational task force squaring up to Saddam Hussein.

Whether there is a shooting war or not, I should be out there with the British forces. This is a major event in world history, and I find myself in a frustrating position," says Keane. "Although I haven't lost faith with the ministry, I am frustrated with the lack of contact or information. I have been left in limbo." Despite lobbying by senior staff at the Imperial War Museum, who are responsible for administering the government's war artist scheme, the ministry continues to refuse to give Keane the green light. "He was appointed to cover the Gulf crisis whether it resulted in war or not," says Dr Christopher Dowling. "We still hope and believe he will get the all-clear to travel." An MoD spokesman said: "He was appointed to cover a war. At

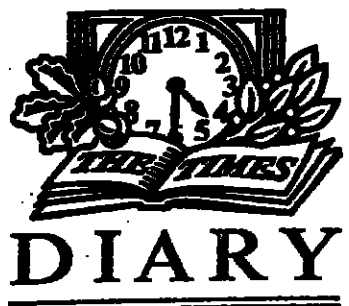
the moment we don't have one. If we do we have to wait and see what happens." Cheerfully describing himself as a coward, Keane says that if he ever gets there he expects to take photographs far from the front line on which to base paintings when he gets home.

Among the forthcoming marriages announced in *The Times* on Monday was that of Nicholas Trend and Miss Sophie Jane Butler. He is a cousin of Burke Trend, cabinet secretary to Edward Heath; she, the daughter of Sir Robin Butler, Mrs Thatcher's cabinet secretary. But it is not a Whitehall mandarin union: they met when working together on Holiday Week.

A desk of her own

With the House of Commons authorities unable to offer Mrs Thatcher an office deemed suitable to the needs of a former prime minister, one of her longest serving ministers has come to her aid with an act of political gallantry. Nick Scott, the social secretary minister, has vacated his office in the ministerial corridor to make way for his former boss, who would otherwise have had to share with another backbencher or work in a passage.

Scott, MP for Chelsea, is at first sight an unlikely rescuer. A renowned wit, he was often tipped for the sack during the Thatcher years but always managed to hold on. John Marshall, his FPS, explains: "Before Dulwich, Mrs Thatcher had a house in Chelsea. It's only natural that he should help his former constituent in this way. I am sure he would have done the same for any of them."



The arrangement, however, is only temporary, as is Mrs Thatcher's use of a suite of offices in the 17th-century Westminster house of Lord McAlpine, the former party treasurer, where John Whittingdale, her political secretary at Downing Street, is overseeing the replicas to an estimated 30,000 letters from well-wishers following her resignation.

One of her staff says: "She wants her own offices outside Parliament. When we have got them we may be able to tell you what her next venture will be."

Going gump

Does the presence of things that go bump in the night enhance or diminish the value of a property? And what is the legal position for someone who discovers he has bought a house with a spectral sitting tenant? It depends on the ghost, according to an article due to appear in the January *Country Homes and Interiors*.

If the spirit is not of the tirelessly mournful sort that walls, clanks chains or frightens the dogs, it should be good news. Such spooks "can add value and

charm to a house which might otherwise just be another victim of the property doldrums".

Two allegedly haunted houses currently on the market are Rock House in Devon, where Rudyard Kipling once lived, and Irton Hall in the Lake District. Both make a virtue of their supernatural nature in the estate agents' blurb.

Those who do not know they are buying haunted houses, and are subsequently upset by creaking stairs and doors, apparently have little legal redress. "There is no obligation on a seller to reveal a



ghostly presence," says Tony Gitting of the Law Society's property committee. Richard Addison, who is handling the sale of the Kipling house, has his own explanation of its reported other-worldly phenomena. "I think a lot depends on how much one has had to drink," he says — words, surely, that can only come back to haunt him.

Bennett's benefit

In three eventful years as an MP, Nicholas Bennett, the new junior minister at the Welsh Office, has never been far from incident. He has been

involved in a scuffle with Labour heavyweight John Prescott, was sent a parcel bomb by Welsh extremists and earlier this year narrowly escaped death in a car crash. After forgoing his secretary, Jane Emmerson — a Tory parliamentary candidate — out of the House of Commons in full view of colleagues, he was blacklisted by the Westminster secretaries' and assistants' council.

His credentials would be impeccable. His great-grandfather was Tom Mann, who led the dockers' strike in 1889, while his grandfather was featured editor of the Communist *Daily Worker*.

What has brought Bennett to the attention of John Major, apart from his support in the leadership contest, is probably his loud and relentless barracking of Opposition spokesmen. But his efforts occasionally rebound. As he interrupted Tony Benn for the umpteenth time in one debate, Benn gave away. After all, he said, a socialist from a titled family could hardly refuse the claims of a Tory closely related to one of the greatest figures in the history of trade unionism. But Benn could not resist regretting "the terrible family transformation that has occurred since".

Much mirth at the Department of the Environment over who is to play Jane to the new secretary of state's Tarzan. In fact, the DoE press office has so many Janes that Michael Heseltine will have the help of a different one for almost every topic: for planning matters, Jane Holman; all things green, Jane Groom; housing, Jane Moffat. Ominously, only on the poll tax is the pattern broken. The expert there is a Sue.

Menem may urge death penalty for army rebels

From MICHAEL SOLTYS IN BUENOS AIRES AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Bush's one-day visit to Argentina is to go ahead despite the unsuccessful but bloody military here on Monday. Officials with the American president in Uruguay, the second stop on his five-day Latin American tour, said yesterday they were confident the uprising would not mar today's visit, but security was being stepped up.

Calm returned to the streets of Buenos Aires yesterday although Argentines are still shocked by the death toll of 19 since, in the 20-odd military uprisings or coup attempts in the past 40 years, violence has been more implicit than real.

The latest uprising may still claim more victims, since President Menem, who par-

doned many of Monday's rebels last year, is talking of setting up courts martial with the power to impose the death penalty. Despite the damage done to Argentina's overseas image by yet another military uprising, Señor Menem believes that putting down the rebellion in a single day has enhanced rather than weakened his authority.

A change in attitude was the decisive difference between the uprising on Monday and others in the past. Then, as now, middle-ranking officers were attempting to impose their own choice of chief-of-staff on the army establishment as a prelude to vindication of the Falklands war and the "dirty war" against left-wing terrorism.

Then, as now, the units seized by rebel forces were rapidly surrounded by loyalist troops. But this time the loyalist troops used mortars to blow open the doors.

The reason for the new determination to put down the rebellion quickly was that the rebels broke the unspoken rules by killing two officers and a non-commissioned officer in Palermo barracks early on Monday.

In view of the latest uprising, there is some surprise here that Señor Menem is still willing to go ahead with the pardon by Christmas of the military junta members responsible for a 1976 coup and the "dirty war" against left-wingers, but this still leaves him with the need to deliver a stern message to those who use violence to attain their ends. The three deaths in Palermo will give him the moral authority to order the harshest punishment.

One question which Señor Menem still needs to answer is why his intelligence services were apparently caught napping. Mohamed Ali Seineldin, the retired colonel who the rebels wanted as army chief-of-staff, was in the 41st day of a 60-day confinement to barracks for insubordination precisely because he skipped the chain of command to warn the president of unrest if the demands of the *carapintada* (camouflage) rebels were not met.

Last week intelligence was investigating the possibility of a left-wing assassination plot against Mr Bush after the arrest of a Bolivian and a Chilean terrorist. At that time more than 400 *carapintada* were planning to strike at dawn on Monday.

Yesterday, however, government sources were saying that the rebels were deliberately allowed to show their hand so that they could be crushed once and for all. Nevertheless, a less costly method of achieving the same end might well have been chosen.

Moreover, it was not as if the ideological sympathies of many rebel leaders were unknown. On the contrary, Major Hugo Abete, in the Palermo Barracks, and Ramon des Sagastizabal, a former coast guard anti-terrorist squad commander, headed the two main rebel efforts parallel to Colonel Seineldin's Villa Martelli uprising in 1988.

Nevertheless, Señor Menem has revealed a machismo that is deeply reassuring to a population stunned by the sight of people bleeding in the streets.

Surprise dismissals in Zambia

Lusaka — President Kaunda announced the dismissal of his newly appointed defence minister and the veteran chief editors of Zambia's two daily newspapers. He gave no explanation for the changes, only saying that Lieutenant-General Hannanah Lungu, appointed in July after helping to crush a coup attempt, would be replaced as minister by his deputy, Dodson Siatilimi.

Komani Kachinga of *The Times of Zambia* and Cyrus Sikazwe of the *Zambia Daily Mail* said they were "very surprised" by their dismissal but bore no ill feelings towards the president. (AP)

Police kill six

Mexico City — Anti-narcotics agents opened fire on two lorries, killing two adults and four children and seriously wounding two others in a case of mistaken identity during a drug operation in the north of Mexico. The families in the lorries were returning from a dance. (AFP)

Congo upheaval

Brazzaville — Alphonse Poaty-Souchalaty, the prime minister, has resigned on the eve of the ruling Congolese Labour party's congress. Congo is in the throes of political upheaval as the nominally marxist central African country moves toward a multi-party system scheduled for January. (Reuters)

Nuclear offer

Hong Kong — Electricité de France said it had been asked by China to submit a full tender for the construction of a second nuclear power plant near the one being built at Daya Bay in Guangdong province. The announcement caused dismay and disbelief in neighbouring Hong Kong. (AFP)

Democracy vote

Cotonou — Benin has given a resounding "yes" to multi-party democracy. Final referendum results in the West African country showed 77 per cent of votes cast approved in full a new constitution leading to multiparty elections next year. A further 16.5 per cent favoured multi-party politics but rejected a clause limiting the age of presidential candidates to between 40 and 70. (Reuters)

Ershad resigns after peace offer rejected

From AHMED FAZL IN DHAKA

PRESIDENT Ershad of Bangladesh has resigned, state television said yesterday, and had called a special session of parliament on Saturday to name a vice-president who would head a caretaker government until elections.

The resignation came after the mainstream opposition parties in Bangladesh had rejected the president's new formula to end the wave of protests that have jolted his nine-year-old government.

On Monday night the president offered to resign next year. The former army chief, aged 60, also promised to lift the state of emergency from December 16 and open those universities closed in the face of violent campus protests.

However, the opposition demanded that he resign immediately. Begum Khalkha Zia, chief of a seven-party alliance, said the two alliances and a left-wing group rejected the offer of dialogue with the government and called for a round of protests.

Nineteen parliament members of the ruling Jatiya party resigned yesterday in the wake of the violent protests. They include three former ministers, Mohammad Abdul Matin, Mayeedul Islam, and Nazimuddin al-Azad. Their resignations reduced the government's parliamentary strength from 267 to 248 in the 300-member house.

At a rally attended by 50,000 supporters, Sheikh Hasina Wazed, chief of the Awami league and an eight-party opposition alliance, declared the campaign would continue until President Ershad stepped down.

More than 200 people were injured in running battles between security forces and pickets at the onset of a week-long general strike called by the alliance. Public transport shut down and banks and businesses remained closed.

Witnesses said mobs stoned government buildings in the capital and the southern cities of Chittagong and Khulna and



Argentine aftermath: loyal soldiers guarding a group of rebels who surrendered in Buenos Aires on Monday night

Hindus renew siege of holy city mosque

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

TENS of thousands of Hindus are pouring into the north Indian holy city of Ayodhya in another threatened assault on a 16th century mosque. The government and leading opposition politicians appealed yesterday for calm as Muslims in the predominantly Hindu area expressed mounting fears for their safety.

Muslim and Hindu leaders continued last-minute talks in Delhi last night in the hope of avoiding another bloody confrontation, which could threaten the survival of the government of Chandra Shekhar.

Hindu extremist organisations said they would go ahead with tomorrow's action, but would not attempt at this stage to demolish the mosque. The building was last besieged on October 30, when Hindus broke through police lines and ran up a saffron flag, the colour of militancy, on one of its domes. The arrest of Hindu leaders led directly to the collapse of the government of Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

The Chandra Shekhar government's one hope is that the hardline Vishwa Hindu Parishad will stand by its promise to start constructing a new

temple alongside the mosque while leaving the ancient building alone. That would buy time to try to find a permanent solution.

The Babri Masjid (mosque) dispute has become one of the most explosive issues between Hindus and Muslims in more than four decades. Rajiv Gandhi, leader of the Congress (I) party, has suggested a judicial enquiry into the central question of whether a temple was demolished by Muslims to make way for the mosque, built in 1528. Hindu hardliners say they have archaeological evidence that a temple predated the mosque. Muslim leaders say they will go along with a judicial enquiry, and move the mosque if it can be established that a temple was demolished.

Mr Gandhi has proposed a three-month deadline on the enquiry, to be headed by supreme court judges. He has also suggested legislation to prevent a change of status in any other place of worship, a move designed to meet Muslim fears that Hindu extremists want to demolish 3,000 mosques that supposedly occupy the sites of demolished temples.

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LIMITS TO SANCTIONS

Economic sanctions are among the weakest, possibly even the most counter-productive, of weapons. Reluctance to accept this uncomfortable reality is a growing obstacle to straight thinking on the world's determination to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. In Washington, sanctions have long enjoyed near mystical significance, whether used against South Africa, the Soviet Union, Cuba or Iraq. Why is not clear — a naive belief in the supremacy of economics over politics or just America's intellectual isolationism — but time and again Washington overrates the efficacy of economic weapons to achieve global goals.

The case for economic sanctions against President Saddam Hussein was not that they would induce him to withdraw from Iraq but that, unless they were tried, nobody else would help America militarily. Now that American opinion is dividing, politicians there are turning back to sanctions as if they were an alternative to military action. They never were. Senator Sam Nunn wants to give sanctions a year to 18 months, on the ground that "once you cut off 98 per cent of the income of a country, eventually it's going to work". This was tried against Cuba and against Panama. It did not "work". Mr Nunn and his supporters are talking dangerous rubbish.

Faith in sanctions is rooted in the idea of confrontation as a kind of siege. Sieges of closed cities did sometimes "work", but only when the inhabitants starved. Iraq is not a city under siege and the world has no intention of letting it starve. Studies of sanctions tend to show they only have an impact over a long period of time, usually by gradually altering the internal political balance in favour of new economic groups. They benefit agriculture and import substitution industries. They make economies tough and lean and, as in the case of Iraq, they lead to sanctions-busting black markets in essential (notably military) supplies. Rhodesia and then South Africa are examples of this.

The advocates of sanctions against Iraq reply that never in modern history have sanctions been applied as thoroughly and speedily as they have been to Iraq. Its foreign assets have been frozen and its oil exports blocked, strict controls have been placed on air traffic to and from Baghdad and an unprecedentedly efficient naval blockade has been put in place. Life has indeed become tougher for Iraqis. Smuggling across Iraq's long land frontiers

with Iran, Turkey and Jordan (helped by the release of convicted smugglers to go about their patriotic duty) will not fully fill the gap.

The American secretary of state, James Baker, now says that he was advised that sanctions would force Iraq to withdraw within four months. Others thought they would act even faster. No attention was paid to Saddam's grip on his subjects, the nature of Iraq's economy and the fertility of its neglected soil — not to mention the loot of Kuwait's warehouses, enough food to feed two million people for six months. More than four months since Iraq's invasion the US defence secretary, Richard Cheney, has come to the realistic conclusion, that Saddam "can ride them out".

Iraq is digging for victory. Where years of development aid and advice failed to make the "fertile crescent" bloom, sanctions are succeeding. Record acreage has been planted for the spring harvest. Free prices on the peasant markets have soared, giving farmers incentives to produce still more, while low-priced rations provide a basic diet. The eight-year war with Iran gave Iraq ample experience of putting the economy on a war footing. Current estimates are that Iraq's military still has enough fuel and spare parts to stay operational for a year without noticeably reducing training, exercises or air patrols.

Sanctions are certainly hurting: hurting the oil-consuming world. But the paradox of all "trade wars" is a tendency to backfire: this one is hurting more than 50 countries. 19 of which have approached the United Nations for assistance. The Polish and Hungarian economies have been crippled. A dozen countries, including poor Bangladesh, have lost a fifth of their foreign exchange earnings thanks to higher oil prices, lost trade or lost remittances from the Gulf.

The call of many American politicians for "military action in a year or two" is disingenuous. Action there must be soon, or not at all. The coalition-building which began in August has reached its peak. Half a million troops cannot sit out next summer in the Saudi desert. Saddam has given ample proof — in invading Kuwait — that force is the only pressure to which he is likely to submit. Sanctions may have been politically necessary. But the only way to free Kuwait is by the January deadline for force set by the UN last month.

KISS AND MAKE UP

John Major's first address as leader to his Conservative faithful yesterday urged reconciliation on a party still painfully divided. Much licking of wounds is being done in private, but in several constituencies individual MPs are in fear for their political lives.

Tory civil war is what Labour wants, Mr Major told them. He did not practise what he now preaches when he plunged the internecine knife into the Welsh Office, delighting the Labour party. His dismissal of Michael Heseltine's chairman, the excellent junior minister, Ian Grist, in favour of one of his own, Nicholas Bennett, compares ill with the magnanimity Mr Major showed towards Mr Heseltine himself. While the dismissal of ministers and the deselection of MPs are quite different matters, Mr Grist's fate is hardly calculated to calm the party.

The most serious constituency threat is to Michael Mates, MP for East Hampshire, who was Mr Heseltine's campaign manager. He faces moves for his deselection and replacement by another candidate later this month. Julian Critchley of Aldershot, Cyril Townsend of Bexleyheath, Emma Nicholson of Devon West and Torridge and Sir Peter Tapsell of Lindsey East are among other MPs facing sharp criticism from their constituency parties.

There are better reasons than electoral profit why these MPs and their constituency associations should kiss and make up. Party rules give an annual opportunity for Tory MPs to reaffirm, or in this case not reaffirm, their choice of leader. Those Tories who do not like the rules should campaign for them to be changed, not for the ditching of those MPs who took advantage of them.

Challenging the sitting leader is a legitimate party activity, not a disloyal one — a loyal member will want the party to have the best

possible leader. A sitting MP is not a delegate of the committee of local Conservatives which selected him. His mandate comes from the electorate as a whole, and it is a mandate, as expressed in Edmund Burke's famous Bristol address, to use his own judgment in the interests of his constituency and the nation. That is an important constitutional principle, over which much blood has been spilt in the Labour party.

An MP has a duty to the senior members of his local party to hear them out. He also has a duty to his constituents of whatever political allegiance. He must conduct himself in the interests of his party, but also, as he sees it, in the interests of the nation. While technically the party cabal can deselect, that power is best used in cases of manifest unsuitability rather than specific disagreement.

Conservative constituency associations are given a conduit for their views on the leadership, separate from any influence over their own MP. Their voice is heard through soundings conducted by Central Office. Hounders of anti-Thatcher MPs would do well to remember that Mrs Thatcher withdrew from the fight not because she had been defeated in the first ballot but because she was told by members of the cabinet and others that she faced defeat by Mr Heseltine in the second.

The constituency parties had initially declared in her favour, then in favour of Mr Major. Their influence was an important element in stopping Mr Heseltine. The role of Mr Heseltine and his supporters was to oblige Mrs Thatcher to accept the verdict of parliamentary and party opinion on her continued leadership. This was a perfectly creditable role. Those involved served their party. None of them deserves the political gallows.

HEALTH CARE ON TRUST

The National Health Service is always said to be either "in crisis", as the Opposition maintains, or "entirely secure", as the prime minister said yesterday. Both attitudes encourage a belief that the issue is not quality of care, but whether the existing structure of the NHS is at risk. This assumes that the NHS is not dynamic, but static, an asset to be protected from a hard world outside. The assumption is false. Public demands on the NHS change, as do concepts of management. In response, the government has taken the mid step, announced yesterday, of granting financial autonomy to 56 hospitals.

For patients, self-governing trusts should bring palpable benefits. Profitable hospital sidelines, like private wards or shopping facilities, will be expanded to finance the capital borrowing which the new rules allow. That will in turn mean more modern facilities. Trusts will negotiate their own agreements with doctors, nurses and ancillary staff. Throughout the public sector, local pay bargaining has proved to be the best way of getting value for money for the customer. Above all, fewer tiers of wasteful bureaucracy should mean that more is spent on patient care.

Last month's changes at the ministry and at Downing Street have injected a new element of uncertainty. As he admitted to the Commons yesterday, William Waldegrave, the health secretary, wrote the passage in Douglas Hurd's secretary, manifesto proposing to review leadership manifesto. Unless he stamps

run the boards of these trusts. Within their own domains, they will be left alone. The right to raise private capital, within limits ultimately set by the Treasury, will bring with it the risk of miscalculation and perhaps even of bankruptcy — though it is unlikely that the most famous of those hospitals, like Guy's, which intend to opt out would be allowed to close. In incurring debts, trust boards should not forget those local authorities which recently made such a hash of playing the financial markets.

Local pay bargaining need not work to the disadvantage of the staff, as the unions claim. In prosperous areas, it should mean that hospital boards will pay substantially more to recruit the calibre of personnel they need. Even in poorer parts of the country, self-governing hospitals should offer hard-working and ambitious employees more incentives. A competitive labour market inside the NHS must be good for staff as well as patients.

The refusal of the Opposition — Liberal Democrats as well as Labour — to accept the principles of local financial autonomy and competition within the NHS means that the long-term future of these hospitals is unclear. Robin Cook could, if he chose, direct his analytical powers to subjecting these 56 hospitals' plans to critical scrutiny, rather than making nonsensical promises to "bring these hospitals smartly back into the NHS".

Once the trusts are in business, no Labour government is likely to abolish them. Mr Waldegrave should concentrate on choosing

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Labour's 'inadequate' EMU policy

From Mr Peter Shore, MP for Bethnal Green and Stepney (Labour) and Lord Jay

Sir, For those who are deeply concerned about the potentially disastrous impact of European Monetary Union upon UK jobs, industry and living standards, the Labour party's latest policy statement (report, November 29) is disturbingly inadequate.

It does not face these crucial economic issues, nor does it address the major question of whether economic and political self-government in Britain can survive the loss of control over monetary, currency and exchange rate policy that full membership of the EMU entails.

True, the statement itself acknowledges that the movement towards monetary union will only be in the interests of the EC if there is a substantial degree of convergence in the economies of the member states; that convergence cannot be confined to the rates of inflation but must embrace the ability of all member states to sustain adequate rates of growth and employment without incurring unsustainable current account deficits. Monetary union in the absence of this degree of convergence would create unbearable strains within the community, resulting in fragmentation rather than close integration.

Unhappily, the strength of that warning is virtually negated and preceded by this limp and supine passage:

EC partners have made clear that... their desire is to move towards full monetary union and the establishment of a single currency. Labour believes that it would not be in the national interest if Britain

allowed itself to be excluded from such developments.

What then is Labour's position? Is it that we will not join an economic and monetary union unless and until the conditions of "convergence" have been met? Or is it that if the 11 adopt monetary union and a single currency, Labour will then join, regardless of whether "convergence" has been achieved and in spite of the "unbearable strains" that would be created?

The tilt of the document strongly suggests the latter, not the former. But this is an ambiguity too important to be left unresolved.

What makes the document even more unsatisfactory is that there has been no prior consultation or debate within the Labour party on membership of EMU. This is all the more remarkable when one recalls that during the 1975 referendum, the Wilson government gave this assurance to the British people:

There was a threat to employment in Britain from the movement in the Common Market towards an economic and monetary union. This could have forced us to accept fixed exchange rates of the pound, restricting industrial growth and so putting jobs at risk. This threat has been removed.

Alas, this same threat is back with a vengeance. This is not a small dispute but one that bears directly upon the central objectives and prospects of success of the next Labour government.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SHORE,
DOUGLAS JAY,
Palace of Westminster, SW1.
December 3.

Changes at the top

From Mr N. D. Foster

Sir, Sir Richard Parsons (November 29), before writing that Mrs Thatcher over-dominated her cabinets and reduced our system to a de facto presidency, should have consulted the late Richard Crossman's 1963 introduction to *Bagehot's The English Constitution* (Fontana edition, page 51).

Here we read that even by 1867 the PM had "near-presidential powers" and that since then the powers have steadily increased. Mrs Thatcher can hardly be blamed for a 100-year process that was probably complete at least 30 years ago.

Crossman quotes with approval (page 52) Lord Home to the effect that no minister can make a really important move without consulting the PM, and as to initiatives by the latter, a minister has to agree, argue it out in cabinet, or resign.

For the electorate there would be no democratic gain from a nostalgic "return to cabinet government" as imagined by Sir Richard. Ministers, not selected by us, are motivated to success and prestige; they should be targeted firmly, supervised closely and, if they fail us, sacked ruthlessly. (We the electorate can, if a government is perceived as failing, be relied upon to dispose of it likewise.)

Yours faithfully,
N. D. FOSTER,
Turzum, Parkgate Road,
Neston, Cheshire.

Aid for Soviet Union

From Dr Ian Richardson

Sir, There are serious problems to poverty, pollution and health here and in the Middle East. These are tending to obscure what may well be a catastrophe in eastern Europe: winter strengthens its grip.

It will be obscene if some starve while others have immense quantities of unwanted food in store. European Community intervention stores are not going to feed these people in perpetuity, but they would help.

This surplus could readily available would give hope and enable the populations of Russia and eastern Europe who have suffered so much to endure their painful transitional period.

Yours faithfully,
IAN RICHARDSON,
Mullach-na-Beinne,
Laggan,
Newtonmore, Highland.

From Mr Robert Chambers

Sir, Brian Crozier (November 30) is of course right to say that some aid to the USSR may be counter-productive. Poor distribution lies at the heart of the pending famine and more food might only compound this.

It is for precisely this reason that our organisation is taking advantage of the greater freedom for private groups to arrange aid to children in the USSR independently of the Soviet state.

This has only just become a possibility, following the plea made by Chancellor Kohl to President Gorbachev.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT CHAMBERS
(Secretary General),
International Society for Human Rights — British Section,
27 Old Gloucester Street, WC1.

From Mr Stanley C. Bedford

Sir, The assembly halls of hell must be echoing with laughter at the news that the distribution of foreign-donated food and other aid will be entrusted to the KGB (report, December 1).

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY C. BEDFORD,
Donkey Drive, Wharf Lane,
Bourne End, Buckinghamshire.

Antares sinking

From Mr Christopher Orlebar

Sir, Yet another trawler has been pulled under by a submarine becoming entangled in its fishing nets (report, November 23). Would not an immediate solution be to fix a weak link in the line from the trawler to the net? Such a link would have a breaking strain less than the force required to pull the trawler under.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER ORLEBAR,
Holt Cottage, Fairport Lane,
Oxshott, Surrey.

From Mr Peter Cobb

Sir, As a former nuclear submarine captain and a "perisher" teacher, I write in response to a report on the radio suggesting that a "perisher" (an officer on the commanding officer's qualifying

Channels for charity

From Mr Neville Bass

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Taggart (December 3), surprises me. Thousands of companies make donations to charity not only at Christmas but throughout the year, as do members of their staff through payroll giving and other schemes. They also send Christmas cards, and I am delighted to say that the volume of charity cards supplied by Britain's charities through this council continues to grow at a healthy rate.

Surely the main purpose of a Christmas card is to send personal Christmas greetings to business colleagues and so forth. If this friendly gesture helps charity at the same time, so much the better.

It is said that Sir Henry Cole invented the first Christmas card in 1843. The design (which may still be seen) depicted a family making merry in the centre of a triptych, while on either side poverty was being relieved and sickness tended. The message was clear: have a good time, have a prosperous new year, but always remember those less fortunate than yourself.

I trust that companies will continue their support by continuing the personal touch which only a Christmas card (and preferably a charity Christmas card) can provide.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BROPHY, Director,
Charities Aid Foundation,
48 Pembury Road,
Tonbridge, Kent.

Key vote on Antarctic mining

From Mr Alistair Gammell and others

Sir, As you report today, conservationists from both governmental and non-governmental organisations gathered this week in the Western Australian capital, Perth, at the general assembly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This event looks as though it may do great damage to Britain's environmental reputation.

A key issue is the future of Antarctica. Practically every governmental and non-governmental organisation is likely to come out in support of a ban on mining in the continent as part of the establishment of a "natural reserve-land of science" in Antarctica. That message will be sent half way round the world to Villa del Mar, Chile, where the Antarctic Treaty parties are debating the issue.

But one governmental delegation in Perth will be told to vote against this measure: the United

Kingdom. We do not want to see the United Kingdom humiliated in this way, out of step with almost every one else.

Our hope is that, with a new administration in power in London, it will immediately instruct its delegates in Perth to come out openly in support of the protection of the last great wilderness of Antarctica, and put itself among the leaders of enlightened conservation opinion.

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR GAMMELL (Head of international department, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds),
ROGER WILSON (Director, treaties and conventions division, Greenpeace International),
RICHARD C. STEELE (Regional councillor for western Europe, IUCN),
DUNCAN POORE (Consultant, International Institute for Environment and Development),
JANET BARBER (Head of conservation, World Wide Fund for Nature (UK)),
Burswood Convention Centre,
Great Eastern Highway,
Perth, Western Australia.
December 3.

Funds for 'big science' in jeopardy

From Professor A. Donachie and Professor A. W. Wolfendale, FRSC

Sir, UK participants in "big science" — particularly nuclear physics and astronomy — find themselves in an alarming situation as a result of the Chancellor's autumn statement (details, November 9, early editions). As members of the Science and Engineering Research Council, and as chairmen of the appropriate boards responsible for funding these subjects, we are faced with budgets that have failed completely to be increased in line with inflation. Severe and possibly irreversible damage to our scientific programmes must surely follow.

Funding for these areas of science, in which the UK has consistently enjoyed an exceptionally high international reputation, must be planned and committed over a period of years. Much of the work involves us in international obligations, of which membership of CERN (European Centre for Nuclear Research) and the European Space Agency are probably the best known. Meaningful programme planning in these circumstances requires

comparatively stable funding over 5-10 year periods.

Government attitudes to science funding appeared to change two years ago, insofar as the two previous public expenditure survey settlements gave welcome respite from extreme funding pressures. Furthermore, attitudes to basic science, epitomised by our own subjects, were improving with the realisation that the trend towards near-market research had perhaps gone too far. Now, sadly, the position would appear to be reversed and we are back to near "stop" again.

The effect on UK science in general will be bad: the effect on our own areas will be singularly so, not least because of a growing inability to exploit adequately recent investment in world-class facilities.

Yours sincerely,
A. J. DONACHIE
(University of Manchester),
ARNOLD WOLFENDALE,
University of Durham,
Department of Physics,
Science Laboratories,
South Road, Durham,
November 22.

Exploiting patents

From Mr Alan Fulwood

Sir, Your report (November 22) of *British Science: Benchmarks for the Year 2000*, a report issued by the pressure group Save British Science, raises other issues. Whilst additional spending on civil science cannot be a bad thing, there are other priorities.

The Arthur Report published by HMSO in the mid-1960s reviewed expenditure by leading industrial nations on research and development and on the purchase of the use of patents. At that time the Japanese spent little on R&D but were by far the largest purchasers of the right to use other nations' patents, including ours. In con-

tract, we were spending much more than the Japanese on R&D but virtually nothing on the exploitation of patents. Now the Japanese have to do their own R&D in order to sustain their industrial development.

Is it not now time that we made more effective industrial use of the research results languishing in university and other libraries? Industrial exploitation of what we have available in research reports and in patents might be of more value than adding more public money to science research. What about technology research?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN FULWOOD,
22 Trelawny Way,
Bembridge, Isle of Wight,
November 23.

'Corporate' arms

From Professor Emeritus Norman Fye

Sir, How could it be possible for three foreign secretaries and the many others consulted by the design team to have accepted, in Mr Richard Moon's new version of the royal coat of arms (report, November 13; letters, November 30), that the lion of the traditional version be replaced by a mauling cat and that a disproportionately enlarged shield should obliterate, completely or partially, so many of the letters of the legend "honi soit qui mal y pense" that it can only be read by those who know what the missing elements are?

There is no doubt that submarines are a very real hazard to fishermen, particularly in inshore waters, but it would be wrong to imply that this tragic accident was chiefly caused by an officer under training.

Yours faithfully,
PETER COBB,
Founders, Chobham, Surrey.

From Mr Ian Linn

Sir, Do my old eyes deceive me? Or has the artist given the unicorn cloven hooves on its hind legs? By what taxonomic authority has this remarkable species been transferred from the Perissodactyla to the Artiodactyla? Are we seeing here a revival of the preposterous theory that the unicorn is merely a deformed oryx?

Yours etc.,
IAN LINN,
University of Exeter, Department of Biological Sciences,
Prince of Wales Road,
Exeter, Devon,
November 30.

From Dr John Norris

Sir, A cloven hoof! Now at last we have proof of the triumph of the Devil in England.

Yours etc.,
JOHN NORRIS,
51 Moberly Road,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Wooden spoons

From Mrs K. J. Barnsley

Sir, I received the questionable honour of the booby prize at a Liberal Democrat "skittle evening" recently: David Owen's book, *Face the Future*. What might suitably constitute a similar prize at a social event organised by other political parties?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BROPHY, Director,
Charities Aid Foundation,
48 Pembury Road,
Tonbridge, Kent.

The man who has to make news with profit

The new chief executive of ITN surveys the challenges of maintaining standards in a commercial news service

BOB PHILLIS, the former managing director of Central Television and doyen of a growing class of "professional managing directors" in the media industry, enjoys a challenge.

He was widely touted as the man most likely to replace an existing ITV company with a bid for a Channel 3 licence in next year's franchise auction, but has chosen instead to skipper Independent Television News through uncharted commercial waters as its new chief executive.

Transforming ITN into a profit-making international news service, while maintaining its quality, seems an appropriate task for a "workaholic" and "news freak" who claims never to have had a career plan other than "avoiding boredom".

The task of attracting viewers who traditionally turn to the BBC at times of crisis will also be a priority after new ratings figures revealed that five million more viewers tuned to the BBC than to ITN for night news during the Tory leadership battle. ITN, which was first with the news of Mrs Thatcher's resignation and the candidacies of John Major and Douglas Hurd, plans to capitalise on its increasing ability to get there first.

But Mr Phillis says his biggest challenge will be to persuade the 15 ITV companies that it is in their best interest to "maximise ITN's value" by supporting it wholeheartedly: in the lead-up to 1994, when, under the new Broadcasting Act, they must divest 51 per cent of their collective shareholding. "The ITV shareholders must see the need not just to maintain quality of the news, but to create shareholder value," he says.

ITN, forced to halve its night service and shed 36 staff as part of an effort to cut costs by 16 per cent, has been thrown into financial turmoil by the Broadcasting Act. Existing ITV companies, which have been hit by an advertising recession and need cash for the forthcoming auction of Channel 3 franchises, are worried about providing it

with more funds. A serious cash problem was averted in October, when ITN persuaded ITV to put up £7.8 million to see it through until the end of December, when it completes its move to purpose-built premises in Gray's Inn Road, London WC1. In August it went over budget by £250,000 covering the invasion of Kuwait. It had budgeted for £7 million in rental income from its new building, which cost £70-80 million, but has been unable to attract tenants.

Mr Phillis's first task when he takes over from Sir David Nicholas as chief executive next February will be to ensure that ITN's core news contract with ITV "fairly reflects the costs of high-quality news, while allowing ITN the flexibility of expanding into other profitable areas".

Mr Phillis, a non-executive director of ITN between 1982 and 1987, when he was at Central, has visions of an ITN international news empire, spanning terrestrial television,

cable, satellite and radio throughout Europe as well as in North America and other English-speaking countries. "News for Channel 3 and Channel 4 will always be the bedrock of the business," he says.

ITN, which produces the radio news bulletins for London's Jazz FM and other stations, has already indicated its interest in bidding either for the new speech-based national commercial radio licence, or for a contract to provide the news bulletins on that and the other two music-based networks.

Mr Phillis is convinced ITN will become profitable, although it is difficult to say when, and he feels it will have no problem attracting suitable investors. It is not a new problem for him. When he left his post as managing director of Independent Television Publications, which publishes *TV Times*, to join Central, he was immediately faced with the task of finding buyers for 49 per cent of the new company's shares. He is adamant, however, that new shareholders must be media groups.

Sir David, who continues as chairman, says several American companies have already shown interest. They are, however, restricted by EC law from individually holding more than 20 per cent.

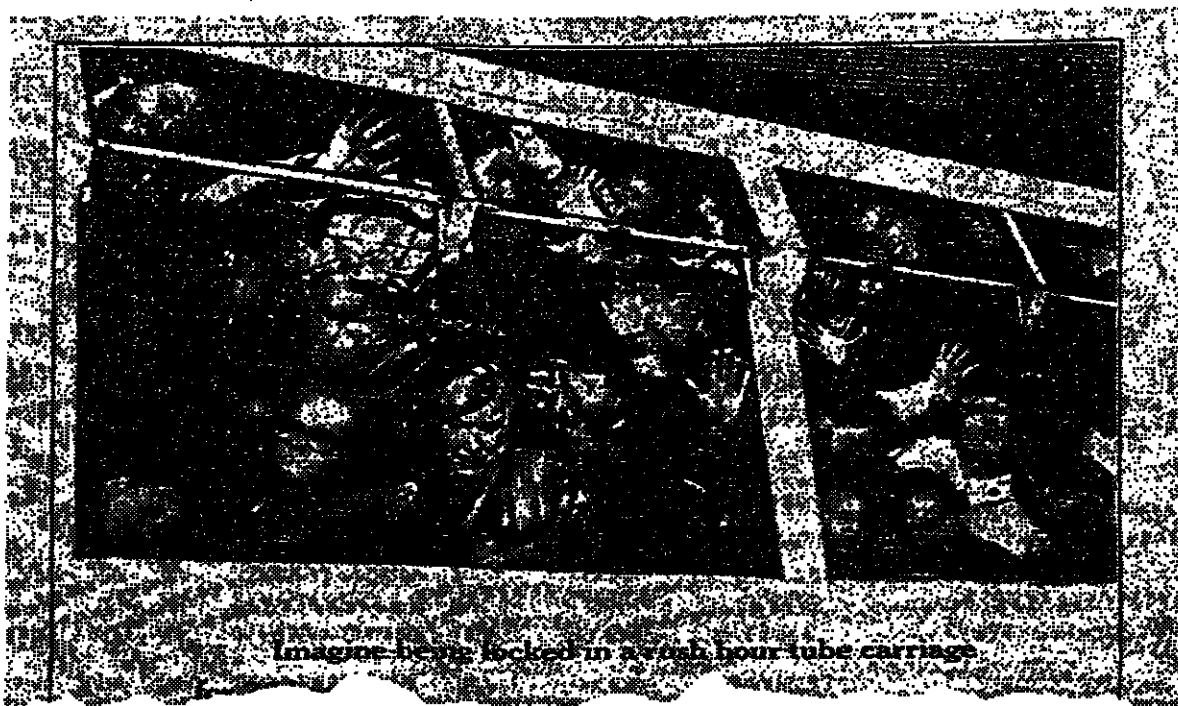
He is committed to introducing an employee share ownership plan, which could account for as much as 10 per cent of ITN. Any ITV company which loses its franchise could also continue as a non-ITV shareholder.

Where this leaves Carlton Communications, the Zenith television producer and video duplication group planning an ITV bid, is unclear. Mr Phillis has been vitally involved in co-ordinating any Carlton bid, and will remain as group managing director until he joins ITN in February. "If Carlton wins a franchise, it will automatically be an ITN shareholder. If not, then it might be an ITN shareholder," he says.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK



Priority: Bob Phillis will make ITN international



Campaign tactics: the RSPCA uses the image of a packed commuter train to oppose the transportation of live animals, while the NSPCC's neglected child - a model - has the necessary "appealing sadness"



Softening the hard sell

Charities have to tailor their message to the advertising rules on taste, Peter Dormer reports

The masters and mistresses of advertising design can sell cars, pets, compassion, saccharin tablets and sadness. Anything can be turned into an appealing product - except suffering.

Most important charities and special interest groups use advertising. As soon as they embark on this course, they have to accept that they are entering a market place and are competing with one another. Competition can be as bitter between charities as between corporations.

Most charities have two targets: the raising of funds and the transformation of public opinion. They exist for the alleviation of suffering, but suffering is a poor product.

Campaigners are dissuaded from showing it by the Advertising Standards Authority (funded by the advertising industry), which has powers to stop the publication of advertisements judged too shocking in their representation of cruelty or pain. If the ASA decides that an advertisement is using tactics that cause, or might cause, unnecessary distress to the public, it forbids publication. It recently remarked that "publishers should have regard to the sensitivities of their readers before publishing advertisements which provoke revulsion".

The NSPCC ranks tenth in the league of the big fund-raisers. A complaint against one of its fund-raising advertisements was upheld by the ASA in 1988 for being too graphic in its detail about child abuse. The juxtaposition of the advertisement

with details of BBC children's programmes in *Radio Times* was an added factor.

Today the NSPCC realises that in fund raising it has to go along with the mores of consumerist culture. Grubbiness - the street urchin look - is acceptable; it has an "aah" factor, whereas a picture of brain-damaged slobbering has not.

The criteria that would good advertising design for other products apply also to the selling of the NSPCC. For example, the child portrayed (always an actor) should have an "appealing sadness" and there should be good eye contact between the child and the viewer. What is being sold is a positive product, sympathy, not a negative product, such as anger or horror.

The NSPCC says it tests its advertisements and has discovered that, for fund raising, positive is best. The irony is that what is apparently offensive to good taste is not the rottenness of a rotten activity, but the alleged bad manners of the messenger who draws our attention to it.

The lobbyists and charities campaigning for better treatment for animals are in a more difficult situation than those who deal with human beings. No animal-centred charity is in the top ten in this country - the RSPCA, the highest, ranks number 15.

So important is the need to emphasise the positive that even the advertisements geared towards farmers have to disguise their message. Dr James Serpell, an animal behaviourist, recently gave a talk in which he drew attention to an advertisement aimed at mink farmers. It showed a collection of deftly drawn minks standing on their back legs, each one of them looking like Tarzan the Otter. They were pictured in a rolling countryside beneath a setting sun. The advertising copy referred to the mink as "the crop". This distances the farmer from the reality that mink, unlike sugar beets, are sentient beings.

In speaking out for the silent or merely furry lobby, how should charities proceed? The RSPCA recently tried to use a dead horse. Its advertising agency bought a dead pony from an abattoir, hung it from a meat hook, took a photograph and used it to draw our attention to the fact that under EC regulations Britain would, in 1992, start exporting live horses for slaughter.

In some eyes the RSPCA had previously fouled the pavement of good taste with its campaign for the registration of dogs, which pictured a pile of dead canines. This was tolerated, but the dead horse advertisement was swiftly banned by the ASA, which argued that the

RSPCA had gone too far and that the image was using shock tactics. The ASA's code states that the content of advertisements should not cause "grave or widespread offence, nor excite distress, merely in pursuit of an attempt to attract attention, or shock".

The ASA does not need to wait for public complaints. The last time it took the initiative was with *Today* newspaper, which at the last general election produced an advertisement predicting a hung Parliament. The poster showed Margaret Thatcher, Neil Kinnock and David Owen with nooses around their necks.

Some animal lobbyists, such as Lynx, the anti-fur campaigners, now use the ASA as a consultancy to see what is acceptable and what is not. Lynx and other animal concerns, including Compassion in World Farming and the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV), are frustrated by the tyranny of good taste. *Reader's Digest*, for example, refused to accept advertising from Compassion in World Farming because the company thought its picture of a battery hen was too grim, and BUAV says that the National Magazine Company, which publishes *Cosmopolitan*, *Harpers and Queen* and *Good Housekeeping*, will not accept its campaign for cruelty-free products on the grounds that to do so would cause offence.

So, given caring and sensitive though the Nineties are predicted to be, the charities must learn one thing: message with your message.

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THE POLYTECHNICS & COLLEGES FUNDING COUNCIL

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The evening went with a hitch: partygoers Katie Ryder-Richardson and David Thompson tried to get home without driving, getting an expensive taxi, or rushing for the last train

Eat, drink and be ferried

As the Christmas drink-driving campaign begins, Jane Bidder finds ways to party without straining your pocket — or your relationship

Yesterday the transport department's annual Christmas drink-driving campaign got under way, including a television commercial deemed so disturbing that it can be shown only after 9pm. At the same time the government has announced plans for a bill next year increasing prison sentences and stipulating post-disqualification driving tests for those who hit both the bottle and the ignition key.

Statistics show that the advertising campaigns do hit home. Last year, the Home Office says, there were 1.4 per cent fewer positive breath test results over the Christmas period in England and Wales than in 1988, although 4,000 more drivers were tested. The growing penalties imposed on offenders also serve as a deterrent. Causing death by reckless driving now carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and at least two years' disqualification; drink-driving offences not involving a fatality carry up to six months in jail, automatic disqualification for one year, and a fine of up to £2,000.

Inspector John Bond, staff officer for Warwickshire constabulary, believes the various drink-driving campaigns are changing social habits. "About five years ago, drinking and driving was deemed acceptable, providing one wasn't caught. Now it is outlawed socially, and people disapprove openly of those who step out of line. The public still goes out to pubs but drinks less, and it's no longer wimpish to abstain or go for a low-alcohol order."

So why do we need the campaigns? "People's responsibility can slip at Christmas," Inspector Bond says. "There are more social activ-

ities, and one might have one too many at the office party before stopping for a top-up on the way home."

What is the effect of all this on the social life of the country? Cracking down on drink-driving has turned many a lively guest into a party pooper, according to Jean Wigzell, who caters for about three events a day over Christmas, besides hosting at least five for her friends in Cheshire. "People don't stay as late as they used to because their reduced alcohol intake dampens the atmosphere. Before the anti-drinking campaign started, they might have stayed until 1am. Now it's more like 11pm, particularly if conversation becomes strained. Guests also need more time to walk home in the country. And if they are getting a taxi, they want to do so before midnight, when fares go up."

London revelers are becoming equally temperate. Charlotte Bleakinsop, a PR who holds at least one dinner party a month, is amazed by the number of empty mineral water bottles the morning after. "I do find that I no longer encourage guests to have another drink. I'd also say that people tend to come out more for a chat at dinner parties than the booze. And we all seem to be more in control of our emotions."

Drinking at home has never seemed more appealing. According to Peter Dominic, the wine merchant, off-licence sales increased by 21 per cent between 1985 and 1988.

Those who do venture out, according to the Portman Group, the drink industry-sponsored organisation to combat alcohol misuse, are less likely to feel embarrassed about ordering an orange juice or low-alcohol drink (sales of which have increased sixfold in the past five years).

Age is no indication of responsibility, according to Dr John Rea, director of the Portman Group: "I have six grown-up children who systematically share the driving with their partners. None of us ever drinks and drives. But I have come across middle-aged couples who are far less responsible and reluctant to change the habits of a lifetime."

Country-dwellers have long since given up relying on public transport to make party-going easier. Madeleine Sumner, the rural transport adviser to the Hereford & Worcester community council, says her local transport operators are typical in their failure to put on extra buses: "They presume people will make

alternative arrangements. You might be able to catch a bus into town, but you're unlikely to find one for the late journey back."

Ms Sumner's acquaintances frequently hire minibuses from local voluntary organisations to take themselves to the nearest bright lights. Others form car-sharing schemes: "One person will offer not to drink at all for the evening, so he can drive five others home."

When visiting her parents in Buckinghamshire, Katie Ryder-Richardson, aged 21, dusts down her old bike for night-time excursions. Even that requires caution, however. "A group of us ride together across fields, since you can be caught drunk in charge of a bicycle, if on the road," she says. If a pedal bike is unsuitable for glittering events further afield, Miss Ryder-Richardson will think twice about going, especially as her boyfriend has not got a car, "one becomes choosier about invitations," she says.

Some companies provide transport for their Christmas parties. Nancy and Neil Hughes spent last Saturday night at the video industry's Vision Ball, held at the Grosvenor House hotel in London, an 80-minute drive from their country home. "Fortunately, one of my suppliers sent a car to pick up ourselves and another couple en route," says Mrs Hughes, aged 28, a sales administration manager. "More and more firms are doing this. If we hadn't been given a car,

'Many men feel it's a test of their control, especially in front of male friends, to insist on driving'

Soccer can be a dicey game

Terry Venables offers everyone a chance to share in the trials of the football manager's dugout

Terry Venables, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, may have the best of games this Christmas. Not on the football field, necessarily, but around the family table. With Paul Riviere, his friend and partner, Mr Venables has devised, developed and marketed what is proving to be one of the most successful new board games in the shops. It is based on the treacherous ground he treads daily, the life of the professional football manager.

Sport being what it is (a perfectly serious business), Mr Venables has done a deal to ensure that he gets a good pinch at White Hart Lane. His game, *The Manager*, is promoted over the loudspeakers and in-house video before every match.

Depending on where you buy it, the game costs from £24.95 to £29.95, can be played by any number from two to six, and is designed not to appeal exclusively to football fans. To move the game along, as well as dice, there are 960 questions on football, show business and general knowledge. Then there are hazard cards, football players with varying transfer values, and provisions for auctions, penalty shoot-outs, and winning the championship title or the FA Cup. At the end, though, it is the manager with the most money who wins.

No one has better reason than Mr Venables, who has been under financial restraints ever since moving to Spurs, to observe: "I often hear people say about a successful club that it is not the money but the players that counts. Without the money you cannot buy the players."

The inventors claim that women tend to play *The Manager* rather better than men, possibly because they are naturally careful with money. But the Spurs players are enthusiasts, too, and have

taken to playing noisy bouts between games and practice sessions.

Mr Venables, who started football life as a precociously assertive inside forward for Chelsea, has a restless and creative mind. During a successful, but bitterly terminated sojourn as manager of Barcelona, he led the team to the Spanish title and the final of the European Cup. He also found time to co-author with Gordon Williams three *Hazell* novels, which led to two 13-part television series, and a football book. It was while writing the last that the idea for *The Manager* came to him like a perfect pass.

He is contemptuous of the defensive wall of opposition deployed by established games companies, which control much of the market. "They thought this was just some gimmicky thing I had endorsed. They would not even look at it," Mr Venables says.

Finally he and Mr Riviere decided to play the high-risk card. They raised £400,000 of their own money to market the game on their own. That was enough to manufacture, box and package the first 50,000 sets. The pair, trading as Glenhope Management, have sold half that number since the end of August.

The Princess of Wales has been presented with a set. Harrods says *The Manager* is the most exciting game since *Trivial Pursuit*. Hamleys and Selfridges report strong sales, and *The Manager* is doing well in Woolworth's and W.H. Smith. The game is now patented in other European countries, and may be translated into an American baseball version to be known as *The Coach*. The game's originators are confident they will break even next year.

ROBIN YOUNG



Game plan: Terry Venables (left) and partner Paul Riviere

he says another common argument is that a husband may have agreed not to drink too much in order to drive home. "The wife, at the end of the evening, might feel he's had too much. If he disagrees, and if his partner has been drinking (as agreed), there can be a problem. It really boils down to whether you'd let your loved one down and break a commitment. Many men feel it's a test of their control — especially in front of male friends — to insist on carrying on driving even if they shouldn't."

Meanwhile, the topic of how to mould one's social life around the law continues to be a dinner-table staple. In the cities, at any rate, help is at hand. Foster's, the brewer, is spreading a little post-Christmas cheer by sponsoring free New Year's Eve travel on London Transport buses and trains from 11.45pm to 5am — tube trains will run half an hour later than usual, and there will be 225 extra all-night buses. Perhaps next year, more drink companies will follow suit.

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& BRIEFLY

Calling all rambblers

THE Ramblers' Association and the National Trust have combined to offer a week of Christmas walks to counteract the effects of any seasonal over-indulgence. Non-members are invited to join members in the walks, which include a 12-mile trek over "hilly moorland" near Ramsbottom, Lancashire (December 29), an eight-mile perambulation around Windermere (December 30), and a two-mile coastal walk starting from Bedruthan in Cornwall (January 1), with tea available at the end. For details send an SAE to the National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS, or to the Ramblers' Association, 1-5 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2XX.

Sweater girls

THE gold Lurex sweater must be the most striking fashion essential around this winter. You can buy designer versions from Arabella Pollen (among others) for several hundred pounds, upmarket multiple versions from "executive woman" outlets such as Options at Austin Reed for £100-plus, and cheerful chainstore versions from Next and others for less than £50. You can even buy the same look in a smooth-line body from the hosiery counters of Harvey Nichols and other leading department stores.

Titled present

FINDING a Christmas present for the person who has everything is a problem that could be solved at 2.30pm

today at the Stationers Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London EC4, when lordships of the manor go under the hammer, together with their ancient rights to hold markets and fairs, to fish and to benefit from certain mineral excavations. According to Robert Smith, of the Manorial Society, most interest is likely to be shown in the Lordship of Balls in Bedfordshire (which carries little but the title). Others on offer, estimated from about £5,000 to more than £100,000, include the Lordship of Ognall in Buckinghamshire, which includes the "historic right to be Master of the Queen's falcons", and the Barony of Lunc in County Meath, Ireland, the highest ranking title on offer.

It's a cracker

TIFFANY, like many of its big competitors, will fill Christmas crackers with anything from a diamond ring to a sterling silver spirit level. Cracking gift ideas start from about £15 (for a solid silver bookmark).

In the field

DETAILS of the Field Studies Council's proposed courses for 1991 have just been published, beginning late this month with "Bird Study for New Year" and continuing with "Life on and around the Sea Shore", "Fungus Forays", "Nature Photography" and "Landscape Painting". Costs start at around £75 for a weekend. Further information can be obtained by sending a large SAE to the Field Studies Council, Central Services, Preston Montford, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury SY4 1HW (0743 850674).

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Can he prise open the cabinet? Tim Renton, the new arts minister, says he is under no illusions

PROFILE

Man at the controls of the money-go-round

Minister for the arts is a job beset with both perks and perils. Free tickets to any artistic event: hurray! Constant complaints from the performers and producers when you get there: boo! No boring parliamentary minutiae what a relief. So little chance to make a mark: what a frustration. "Apart from the challenge and the fun," admits Tim Renton, the new incumbent, "it's a cross to bear."

Even artistic expertise and enthusiasm is no guarantee of popularity. Richard Luce, self-professedly ignorant about the arts, was derided in his early years as minister, but achieved godlike status towards the end. Why? Because he came up with the cash. David Mellor may have had the largest CD collection in the history of politics, but until he wheeled a reasonable rise out of the Treasury, arts administrators were determined to withhold judgment on him.

Renton is under no illusions about the job. He knows that the public spending round is by far the most important component. He sees his trips around the country as primarily useful for "devilling", gathering evidence and ideas that will enable him to say to the chief secretary to the Treasury, come the autumn: "If we had another £20 million we could really achieve this, and it's not just going to go on administration."

What should be an advantage is that Mellor is now chief secretary to the Treasury. As minister for the arts, until last week, he argued for, and won, a rise larger than inflation in this year's round, though he bequeathed to his successor far smaller planned rises in the years ahead.

Mellor's new boss as Chan-

Mellor, Lamont, Major... will their past experience of funding the arts make the task easier for Tim Renton, the new minister?

Mary Ann Sieghart asks him

cellor, Norman Lamont, was chief secretary in the two fat years for the arts—1989 and 1990—in which government expenditure outpaced inflation. And his new boss, John Major, was then Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is this ladder of sympathy that could prove just as useful to the arts as the minister himself.

Moreover, Renton is likely to be pretty immune to the constant cries of crisis from the arts lobby. "I'm never impressed by big lobbies," he claims. "You get used to the Oliver Twist argument—can I have some more, please?—it's always there." Nor is he likely to be moved by what he sees as publicity stunts. "The pity about the Royal Shakespeare Company closing down the Barbican is that there is an element that the government must bail them out," he says.

None the less, he admits that "there was a period when the arts probably did not have enough, though it has very much picked up in the past three years."

Crucial to the pricing of money out of the Treasury is winning the support of parliamentary colleagues. What those in the arts often do not realise is how hard it is for Tory ministers for the arts to win their party over to the cause.

Perhaps Major, an opera-lover like his wife, will have more instinctive sympathy than his predecessor. Just as important, however, is to convince other members of Parliament that the

arts can be an electoral issue. "There's always the 'opera-for-toffs' element in the party," Renton admits. This is the group led by Terry Dicks. He attacks subsidies for "fat cats" who like opera ("an overweight Italian singing in his own language") or ballet ("a man prancing about in a pair of ladies' tights"). These people will not go away. But they are outnumbered by most of the parliamentary party, which used to be more or less indifferent about money for the arts.

What has changed is the contribution the arts have made to urban regeneration. Renton cites Manchester and Glasgow in particular. "The return of artistic activity is very important in revitalising these places and the MPs sense that. There is much more sympathy now," Michael Heseltine's return to the environment department should help to provide a fillip to the arts in the inner cities.

Also influential has been the recognition of the role the arts play in boosting tourism. Responsibility for this awareness lies at the door of John Myerscough, whose report, *The Economic Importance of the Arts*, published in 1988 when he was at the Policy Studies Institute, quietly but persuasively made the case that public money for the arts would be more than recouped in income from tourists. This proved to be a far more effective way of raising money from the government than

any amount of polemic from directors of theatre companies.

On policy, Renton's first big decision will be over how much funding should be devolved from the Arts Council to the new regional arts boards. He is reluctant to commit himself before he has read himself into the job, but concedes: "It's in my nature to be a devolutionist, providing it does not lead to extra bureaucracy."

Mellor, by contrast, was suspected by many to be a natural centralist. Despite losing his (non-voting) seat at cabinet as chief whip, Renton is enthusiastic about his new role. He accepts that minister for the arts is not big enough to be a cabinet job, though he thinks that bundling broadcasting and the press in with the arts could create a minister for culture and communications who would deserve a place at the cabinet table.

On artistic knowledge and experience, he lies somewhere between his two predecessors. He has visited art galleries since he was a teenager and has amassed quite a collection of British and Australian paintings and sculpture. He likes going to Glyndebourne and the English National Opera.

Perhaps most critically for those in the arts who want more money, he is a founding patron of New Sussex Opera. "It struggles and is always in financial difficulty," he says. But it manages to survive and has put on several large-scale opera productions at the Dome in Brighton.

Will Renton conclude from this involvement that the arts can just about manage? Or will his first-hand experience enable him to convince those on the ladder above him that the arts need more money after all? More likely it will be the latter.

EXHIBITIONS

Backroom boys' work makes the difference

Although Edinburgh University's academic prestige derives from its prowess in the sciences, it can also boast the Watson Gordon Chair of Fine Art. Established in the 1870s, this is the oldest university department dedicated to the study of the history of art in Britain, established in 1870. But while students make good use of the old masters in the nearby National Gallery of Scotland, the private labours of the academic staff only occasionally bear fruit on its premises. Giulio Sanuto and the Italian Printmakers of the 16th Century is, therefore, a rare and highly desirable event.

Four years ago the gallery acquired one of two known impressions of Sanuto's engraving, "Apollo and Marsyas". The print is the most dramatic and important work by this obscure and little documented artist, and its acquisition prompted Michael Bury, the university's expert on the period, to embark upon some gruelling research. He has identified and assembled Sanuto's extant oeuvre and written a monograph.

By any standards, "Apollo and Marsyas" is a fascinating work. Centre-stage, Apollo lays Marsyas

Two new small-scale shows at the National Gallery of Scotland make for a welcome change of pace, as Andrew Gibbon Williams reports

(no satyr in this version) like a banana for his presumption in challenging godly musicianship. The competition is in full sway on the right while on the left, mid-distance, Midas's barber discovers the ass's ears inflicted on the Phrygian king for making the judgement. The way the narrative is arranged, however, is less interesting from a historical perspective than the numerous quotes and borrowings: a group of muses has strayed in from Raphael's "Parnassus", clumps of trees have been lifted from Titian, the general composition based on a Bronzino harpsichord cover.

These are the hallmarks of the archetypal mannerist. Sanuto, despite his Venetian birth and education, is a member of that *bande à Michelangelo* for whom ostentatious display of familiarity with the High Renaissance and technical brilliance are more important than original invention or, for that matter, than individual artistic personality.

To the modern eye accustomed

to slick 19th-century engravings, Sanuto's—like Dürer's—look stylised and crude, perhaps because he was aiming more at a diagrammatic record than verisimilitude (Giulio and his brother were at the forefront of the map and globe-making business). The great pictures of Titian, his major source, are robbed of all life by nervous, brittle drawing and emphatic hatching. Andromeda, for example, feminine and vulnerable in the famous Wallace Collection oil, becomes a vicious, overweight houri, care of Sanuto. And a major leap of the imagination is required to envisage Titian's lost original of "Tantalus" from Sanuto's bodybuilding fruit-grasper.

If this meagre remnant of his life's work is representative, Sanuto was a minor and uneven talent inclined towards the macabre. *Allen* was a horrifying invention, but Hollywood is yet to come up with anything so grotesque as Sanuto's "Monstrous Child"; tiny penis protruding from

forehead, cyclops-eye mid-face, he is the stuff of nightmares.

In recent times, this small-scale, focused kind of show has done much to leaven the permanent diet of old masters offered by the National Gallery. Running concurrently with Sanuto, yet another commemorates the centenary of Hospitalfield, an arts trusts and residential college near Arbroath. Generations of Scottish art students have taken advantage of the annual summer schools held there but it is unlikely that many have appreciated its history.

Hospitalfield, a Victorian mansion built of red sandstone in a less elaborate baronial style than Scott's Abbotsford, replaced the monks' barn which the writer used as the model for the house of the antiquary in his eponymous novel. It is a monument to one of those uniquely Victorian, public-spirited philanthropists, Patrick Allan—the local boy made good who married Elizabeth Fraser, the

heir to the by then impoverished estate.

Unlike so many of the breed, however, Patrick Allan-Fraser was an artist himself, graduating from the Trustees Academy in Edinburgh, proceeding onto the obligatory sojourn in Rome during the 1830s, then trying to make a go of it back home. In London he became part of a now-forgotten artistic group called "The Clique". And it was from these friends—among them luminaries such as W.P. Frith and Augustus Egg—that he later commissioned pictures to bedeck the house.

Some provided unusual self-portraits: Frith flirts with an Italian girl, Egg portrays himself romantically as the garret-incarcerated poet. But the most accomplished, by John Phillip (a Scottish artist despite his nickname "Spanish"), depicts one of the hazards of the Continental sketching trip: a peasant girl in a Seville market giving him the "evil eye".

Sculpture and furniture supplement the pictures and these flesh out to some small extent Allan-Fraser's personality. Many of the anecdotal subjects, however, the great man's own "Idle Housemaid" is a case in point) are



Flaying: from "Apollo and Marsyas", 1562, by Giulio Sanuto

forceful and necessary reminders—now that High Victorian art has acquired kitch value—of the baths of so much British painting after pre-Raphaelitism.

● Giulio Sanuto and Italian Printmakers of the 16th Century (until Dec 16) and Hospitalfield (until Jan 13) at the National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh (031-556 8921).

TELEVISION

Reunited or remaining split

THE reunification of Germany, as explored in a splendidly cynical Late Show (BBC 2) interview last night, of Wolf Biermann by Nigel Williams, is unlikely to find much of an echo in Korea. Earlier on the same channel, Brian Barron came up with an intriguing documentary for Assignment, contrasting the economic recovery of South Korea with the monolithic bankruptcy of the North at a time when the megalomaniac pyramids of Kim Il Sung stand empty because nobody can afford the glass for their windows.

Asked how long the present northern regime could survive after Kim Il Sung is replaced by his anthem-writing son, a Moscow observer reckoned anywhere from two hours to two years; but in the meantime the old man is still there, exerting his baleful Orwellian influence on the ultimate paranoid society. Meanwhile, across 150 miles of barbed wire, 40,000 American servicemen continue to prop up the security of the South, 40 years after the war that first took them to fight there.

Like Hong Kong, South Korea is the economic envy of its communist neighbours. But, for as long as Kim remains so powerful a god that an apparently amiable young woman can cheerfully admit to camera her murder, in his name, of 116 people aboard a South Korean jet, the chances are that there will be little political change. "Any other young person in North Korea would have been proud to do what I did," the perpetrator announced, over reconstructed film of an airliner having its insides torn out as bodies flew through the windows. Ideology still makes a powerful frontier.

As for Wolf Biermann, the rogue troubadour whose father died in Auschwitz defected from Hamburg to East Berlin in 1953. He was among the first to establish a corrupt regime there, as a result of which he was duly exiled back to his homeland from his fatherland, and remains one of the great

exponents of the "plague on both your houses" school of Central European political philosophy.

His singing of his own songs suggests Gilbert Bécand in the Berliner Ensemble, but Williams's intelligent interview brought out some superb verbal images, including the cadaver of communism sinking around the world, and the thought that it did not need the tearing down of the Berlin Wall to tell a man who had climbed across it in both directions that there might now be a way through the middle.

Monday's *Abroad in Britain* on BBC 2 found Jonathan Meades looking more than ever like a rent collector from the Mafia, as his dark glasses and shoulder-paddings grow wider by the week. His lugubrious search for the architecturally and socially exotic, a useful counterpart to Lucinda Lambton's

more manic treks around the merely bizarre, led him this week to a series of local Bohemias, in the Isle of Wight, West Sussex and west London. Meades is finding his place halfway between James Lees-Milne and Nikolaus Pevsner, never better than when worrying about whether there are places in Bohemia called England, or why Little Red Riding Hood should have come from there. "Local girl makes good in sexual allegory."

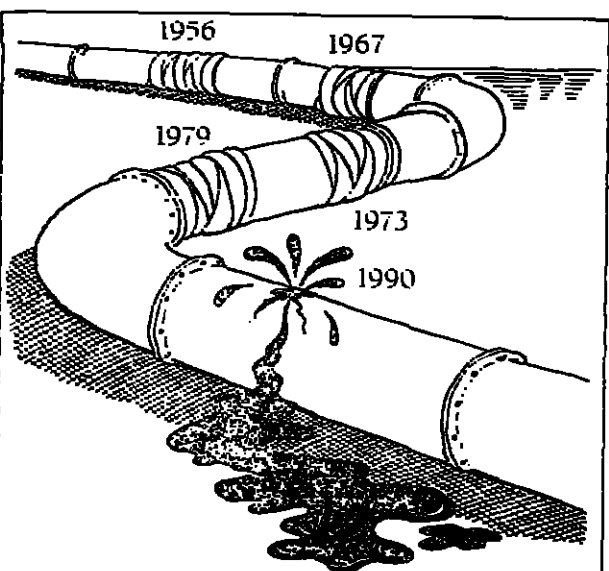
More and more in this series the true star is Meades's producer, Russell England. When some interviewee is proving more than usually turgid, England has his presenter uptoeing ostentatiously out of the back door, or trying desperately to escape over the garden wall from some unusually ghastly example of Berjermania.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

Loneliness is just one problem

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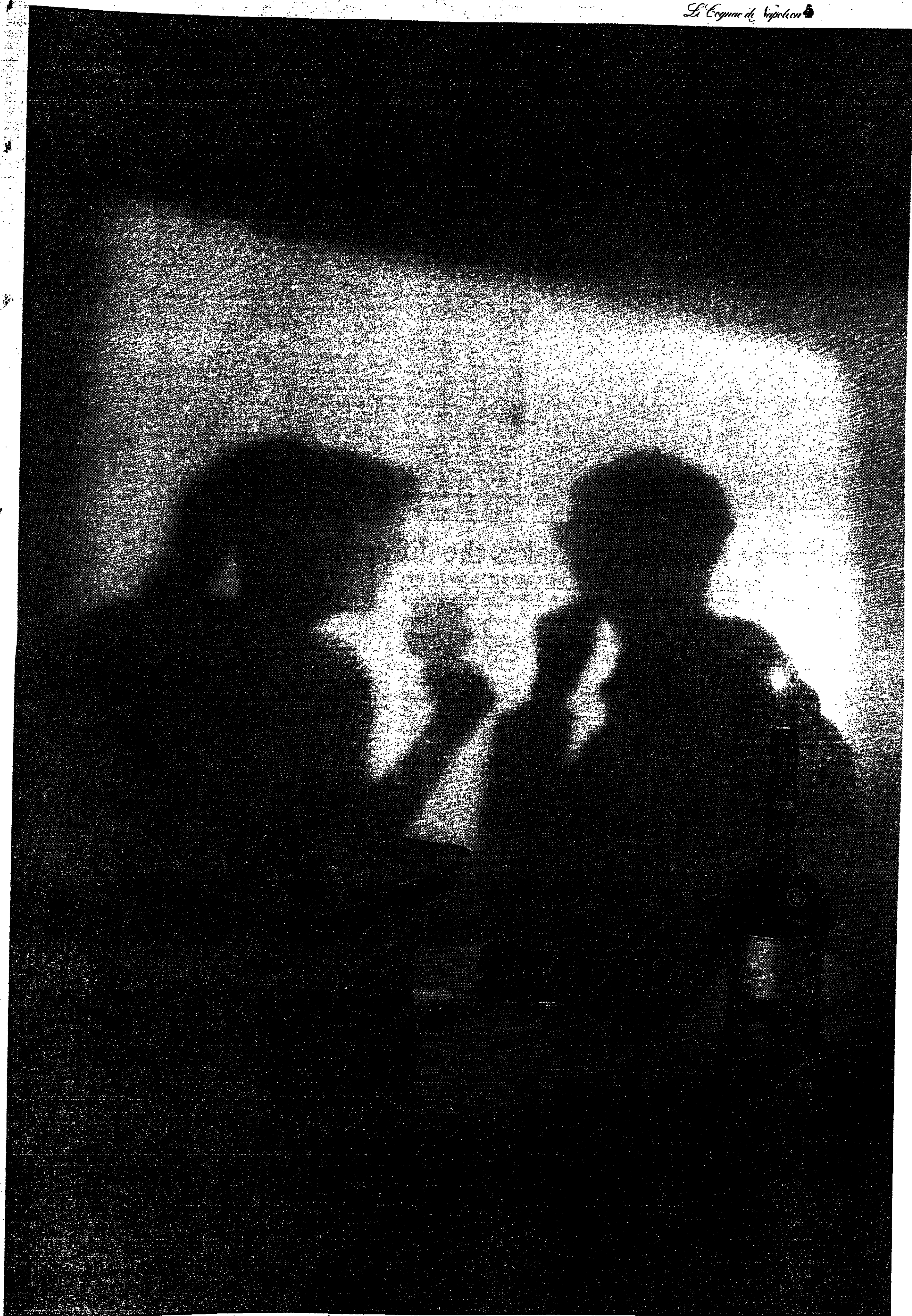
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BRIEFING

All's Wells in the end

TWO London theatres have been involved in an unusual juggling act that has seen the English Shakespeare Company pulling out of its month-long season at Sadler's Wells in February. With ticket sales for its productions of *Volpone* and *The Merchant of Venice* not going as well as hoped, the company has now transferred its season (February 4 to March 2) to the Lyric Theatre, Hammer-smith, which has a more established theatre audience than the Wells. Consequently, the Islington venue can provide a London home for the touring production of *The King and I*, starring Susan Hampshire and the Japanese Kabuki actor, Koshiro Matsumoto IX, which should prove a bigger revenue earner for the cash-strapped Wells, where audiences prefer their drama with a song.

In memoriam

DAME Eva Turner, the great British dramatic soprano who died in June at the age of 98, is to be remembered in a service of thanksgiving for her life at Westminster Abbey on February 5, 1991. Sir Colin Davis, Dame Gwyneth Jones, the Royal Opera Chorus and Royal Opera House Orchestra are among those participating. Anybody wishing to attend should apply to Stuart Holmes, assistant receiver general (protocol), room 5, Westminster Abbey, London SW1P 3PA.



Eva Turner: Abbey service

North and south

THE National Museum of Science and Industry has acquired two paintings by the Victorian artist, George East, for the National Railway Collection housed at the National Railway Museum in York. The paintings, "Going North, King's Cross Station" and "Perth Station, going South", were purchased at a cost of £750,000. Director Dr Neil Cosson says "these are the most important railway paintings to have come on to the market in recent years." The paintings will be exhibited at the Science Museum in London before moving to York.

Last chance...

BERNARD Meninsky, one of the great generation of Anglo-Jewish artists born around 1890, has never commanded quite as much attention as Gertler or Bomberg. He was altogether a more retiring character, happy painting mothers and children, distressed nudes, landscapes and still-lives. His brilliantly expressive draughtsmanship and vibrant sense of colour still remain compelling. A selection of his oil paintings at the Belgrave Gallery (071-930 0294), along with an exhibition of works on paper at Blond Fine Art (071-739 4383) remain until Friday.

MUSIC

Hold on to your technique

Maria Ewing, the fiery opera singer and popular concert hall attraction, talks to Richard Morrison

At the first mention of the word, the corners of that famously extravagant mouth turn downwards in rebuke, and those magnificent brown eyes fling back this presumptuous challenge to their owner's professional integrity. The word is "crossover" — a slightly derogatory record-business label applied to such phenomena as opera singers who affect transparently fake Cockney accents and sing *My Fair Lady*.

"I don't like that term, and I don't think it accurately describes what I do," says Maria Ewing, opera singer latterly turned part-time purveyor of Gershwin, Porter and Kern. "These songs have been part of my life for as long as I can remember. This isn't me trying to do something outside of my experience."

Tomorrow night at the Festival Hall, "Maria Ewing: From This Moment On" rolls again, with the Royal Philharmonic and Richard Rodney Bennett in attendance. The show first hit London, via a sound-system of terrifying amplitude, at the 1989 Proms. "That was the right moment in my career and my life," says Ewing, and it is hard to disagree. The spectacle of the waif-like diva, covered in sequins and confiding to 5,000 people that she was "just a little lamb who's lost in a wood" was both totally incongruous and gloriously entertaining.

The first thing that her colleagues say about her is that Ewing's perfectionist streak is second to none. Nothing sickens her, she once remarked, more than "gifted people who are just damn lazy". If her performance at the Albert Hall last year sometimes seemed to send up the whole genre of opera singers going pop, that was undoubtedly her intention. "No, this repertoire is not shallow compared with opera. It goes straight to the heart, believe me. It requires different technique — I would always use the microphone, not the projected voice I use in the opera house — but it is no less demanding. One battle is to find the right key so that the songs lie mostly on the level of the speaking voice. Then the words can be treated with great expressivity. Also, the natural 'break' in the voice has to be overcome. To belt out a big number above that break, in the upper register, is just as difficult as having to place a very high passage in an operatic aria."

However, when Ewing refers to last summer as the "right moment" for her to sing these Broadway ballads, she is perhaps making a coded reference to the extraordinary rollercoaster ride which her life seemed to resemble in the previous 18 months. First came the astonishing *Salome* at Covent Garden, directed by her then husband, Sir Peter Hall. Of course, there was a *succès de scandale* element to that triumph, brought about by Ewing's naked honesty at the climax of the Dance of the Seven Veils (the gold



Don't mention crossover: Maria Ewing is a "waif-like diva" with steely determination and a perfectionist streak second to none

Jamie G-string was discarded on opening night because Ewing felt it was "vulgar", which prompted surely the longest opera reviews ever published in the tabloid press).

But there is far more to Ewing's theatrical dissection of what she called "the dark, dark side of sex". Simon Rattle, when he conducted her, described her interpretation of Ravel as "easily the most X-rated *Sheherazade* you can imagine". That was just in the concert hall. *Salome* showed the totality of Ewing's talent: in voice, in demeanour and in body language, she was a deranged 16-year-old.

Characteristically, the perfectionist firmly rebuts charges that she went over the top playing that role. "No performance should be fixed and unchanging, that is true. But equally, there is no sense in saying 'Well, just throw ourselves into the roles; just live them'. At all times you have to know exactly what you are doing, and control how you do it. The technique must always be there. If it is, you gain the tremendous freedom that can take a performance to the edge."

That *Salome* was in April 1988. Even as Ewing caressed the severed head, the opera world was buzzing with title-tattle of a rift between herself and Hall. Four months later, their six-year marriage — his third, her first — was officially pronounced dead. In the messy months after that, Ewing

'The technique must always be there. If it is, you gain the tremendous freedom that can take a performance to the edge.'

must have directed some of her intense pride in giving a professional performance towards the task of maintaining admirable dignity in the face of some unpleasant media probing.

The following spring, she bounced back in the most public manner possible — singing the title-role to 5,000 people nightly in Harvey Goldsmith's mammoth *Carmen* at Earl's Court. Not exactly the artistic high point of Ewing's career, perhaps ("the audience was so far away I didn't know they were there"). Yet the show did at least bring Ewing's smouldering, teasing, sulky *Carmen* to a wider audience than Glyndebourne admits.

Her childhood, in Detroit, was unexceptional; so was she. The origin of that steely determination probably lies in a sequence of events that happened when she was 18. She had won a local singing competition and a scholarship to music college. Then, a couple of days before her first important concert, her father (an engineer, with a mixture of Sioux, Scottish and Negro blood) died. "Your father would have been proud of you" could stand as the

motto of her subsequent career. "I don't know how I ever got into this business. Some people have a great desire to be something; I didn't. I didn't seek this; it came to me. But once it was there — this 'it' — I felt an enormous responsibility towards it." That much is obvious: before she sang the Covent Garden *Salome*, for example, she ceased speaking for a fortnight.

Her striking looks undoubtedly played some part in her swift rise to international fame. When she made her British debut at Glyndebourne in 1978, singing Dora in Hall's production of *Cost fan tutte*, *The Times* detected "an almost tomboyish pout on the lips". That pout — though hardly tomboyish for long — has become one of the most sought-after sights on the operatic stage.

Years ago, when asked to name the singer whose approach most resembled hers, Ewing chose Maria Callas. That was revealing. Still more revealing, perhaps, is the fact that, when asked the same question last week, she said that there was nobody at all. No woman singer turned 40 wants to think about Callas's final years, which

were a tragedy of burnt-out genius. Ewing's vocal style, in which drama is incorporated into the vocal line to an extent that no other singer emulates, has certainly had its critics. Reviewing her Wigmore Hall recital in 1985, *The Times* said she "did for Schubert and Debussy what Peter O'Toole did for Macbeth".

Ewing, again, hotly defends herself against accusations that she bends the vocal line unacceptably. "I am very meticulous about line and pitch. I know few singers who are more so. But there's a hell of a lot of drama even in a song recital. If you are singing 22 songs in succession, you are telling 22 different stories. You can't just give pure, clean, vocal lines and nothing else, although of course we know there are singers who do exactly that. Perhaps that is why song recitals are a dying art, at least in America."

What of the future? Ewing has some surprising ambitions. "Wagner has been suggested. It's not inconceivable for me to sing even Brünnhilde." More immediately, there is her first Madam Butterfly. How on earth will she relate to that poor, oppressed creature? Ewing considers the point deeply. "There's something very touching about her. And you know, the Japanese always have a lot more going on inside than they show on the face."

Maria Ewing and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra are at the Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800) tomorrow, 7.30pm

RECORDS: OPERA

A heady mixture

Donizetti: *L'elisir d'amore*. Battle/Pavarotti/Nucci/Dara. Metropolitan Opera Orch./Levine. DG 428 744-2. (2 CDs)
Donizetti: *Don Pasquale*. Hendricks/Canonic/Quilico/Bacquier. Lyons Opera Orch./Ferro. Erato 2292 45487-2. (2 CDs)

ONLY three years ago, DG issued a new *L'elisir d'amore*. But it turned out, under Gabriele Ferro, to be rather lacklustre Donizetti. So, with Luciano Pavarotti treating Donizetti's young farmer who comes into his inheritance at just the right time to win his girl as his favoured operatic role of the moment in the theatre, the temptation of a swift return to the studios was not to be resisted.

Pavarotti's Nemorino builds up on record as on stage to a show-stopping interpretation of "Una furtiva lagrima". This is glorious singing, without intrusive sob or exaggeration. Earlier, especially in "Quanto e bella", the tone had sounded a bit too open and Pavarotti had not shown the agility of his Adina, Kathleen Battle, who responds with quicksilver reaction to every male around her. She eggs on Belcore (a properly swaggering Leo Nucci), flirts outrageously with Dulcamara (Enzo Dara showing as ever his comic polish) in the Act II barcarole before telling Nemorino in "Prendi l'anello" that he is really the man for her. With James Levine controlling the Metropolitan Opera orchestra and chorus with the lightest of touches this *Elisir* makes a most disarming set.

Just as *Don Pasquale* runs second best to *Elisir* among Donizetti's comedies, so Erato's Lyons-based recording of the piece pales a bit before the high gloss of the Met. There are few complaints about the core of the casting, with Gabriel Bacquier in the title role. A few weeks ago he was enchanting Covent Garden as Rossini's Dr Bartolo; here he is as another crusty old man hoping to snare in marriage a girl young enough to be



Pavarotti playing Nemorino

his daughter, nay his granddaughter. Bacquier, in his mid-sixties, knows just how to deliver such parts. Gino Quilico, the Malatesta, is equally at home. But would that the rest of the performance went with the brio of their joint patter duet "Cheti, cheti".

Barbara Hendricks and Luca Canonici sing sweetly enough as the two lovers. But Hendricks has a touch of hardness in her voice, while Canonici moves too swiftly off his high notes instead of letting them float as the best Ernestos do. Gabriele Ferro is adroit with the ensembles, but shows little sense of fun.

JOHN HIGGINS

CINEMA

The very devil of a part to play

Jeff Goldblum is an attractive devil. Playing the Prince of Darkness is all the rage among leading actors: Jack Nicholson put in his customary "horny little devil" for *The Witches of Eastwick*, and Robert De Niro gave a more subliminal version in Alan Parker's *Angel Heart*. It is a fair bet that Goldblum watched both of these before undertaking his leading role as *Mister Frost*. His performance is not like either, but then it wouldn't be.

The film is a weird and not always happy French production, directed by Philip Seibon. It kicks off at Frost's home, which is supposed to be in England but the architecture of the house marks it down as French. In the garden there are at least 24 mutilated corpses. Alan Bates is the investigating policeman, convinced of Frost's cloven hooves. When Frost is later incarcerated in a French institution for the insane, various French actors wander in and out, speaking bad English.

Whatever the shortcomings of the film, however, it rests on the bedrock of a fine performance from Goldblum. The hold he exerts over his female shriek (Kathy Baker) proves that evil is more truly spiritual in its attractions than is good.

The first question is about the Jewish line on the Devil. "I'm not a learned Jew," Goldblum says, "I'm a cultural Jew. So let's see." He muses awhile. "Well, there is the Dybbuk, will that do for you?" In fact he derived most of his research from *People of the Lie* by M. Scott Peck, a psychiatrist who aims to cure the human soul of evil by psychotherapy. A forlorn prospect, one of those of us

Jeff Goldblum talks about his new film, *Mister Frost*, to Chris Peachment

"My own evil is very frightening to me," Goldblum says. "The will to hurt others, even the avoidance of the good deed, these I recognise. This guy has tortured 24 people to death and buried them in the garden. There is that famous phrase 'the banality of evil'. I just can't see that as very banal."

His performance is anything but banal; a mixture of physical appeal and a metaphysical appreciation for the finer paradoxes of his calling.

The role is a departure for him. As a leading man, his screen persona can be stubborn, often reticent. He is a big man, at least 6ft 6in, with the shoulders of someone who works out. His identity on screen does not waver, but in an age of male stars who conquer opposition, Goldblum has the courage to be inept. John Landis owed much of the comedy of his

Into the Night to Goldblum's wide-eyed insouciance, blundering around Los Angeles at night in the wake of adventures Michelle Pfeiffer. His professional gambler in the western *Silverado* sported a fancy brocade waistcoat, a knife in his riding boot and an unforgettable self-introductory line: "My name is Calvin Stanhope... but my mother calls me Slick."

As the scientist who found himself mutating into a fly in David Cronenberg's *The Fly*, he drew sympathy as the victim. And in Mel Smith's *The Tall Guy*, he was an actor down on his luck and reduced to playing a dancing elephant.

Goldblum on screen does not often cause things to happen; they happen to him and sweep him along in a state of bewilderment and panic. All credit, then, to Seibon for

releasing not just the satanic but the decisive side of him.

Goldblum was born in 1952, one of four children, to a doctor in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It was at children's productions of *Beauty and the Beast* that he acquired the acting bug. He studied in New York, at the Neighborhood Theatre under Sandy Meisner, whom he rates as one of the best Method teachers. "It takes 20 years to make an actor, so the two years under him were just a start, and I'm still getting there."

He lives in the Hollywood hills, but the taste for working in Britain began when he played, for the BBC, the American half of the DNA team of Crick and Watson, discoverers of the double helix. He admires the higher quality of work available here, and the excellence of the writing. Richard Curtis's script for *The Tall Guy* was the only persuasion he needed to take on the role.

After *Mister Frost*, he can be seen in another British production, Ben Lewin's *The Favour, the Watch, and the Very Big Fish*. He plays a pianist who falls for a girl and goes wild with jealousy when he sees her with another man. After his physical intervention, he does a long prison stint and emerges with a beard and long hair. "A photographer (Bob Hoskins) spots me as the perfect model for Christ. He puts me up on the cross. I even get to walk on the water."

Is this then a return to more passive roles? "Oh no, but it is appropriate, don't you think, after the Devil?"

For some reason, directors making films of the New Testament tend to cast Scandinavian types as their Christ. "Yeah. At last, a



TED BATH

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Brewers held back by non-core businesses

By MARTIN WALLER

THE aftermath of forays into the leisure market and further afield are featured in trading statements from three regional brewers, Eldridge, Pope & Co, Greene King and Mansfield Brewery.

The worst news came from Eldridge, Pope, which incurred an £8.08 million attributable loss in the year to September 29. Operating profits fell from £4.5 million to £522,000 after losses of £1.5 million from Realstream, a computer software company that is the subject of a police investigation.

Doubled interest charges left pre-tax losses of £2.4 million, against profits of £3.06 million last time. There are also a further £5.79 million of extraordinary losses from Realstream, which is to be sold, and a hotel that has been sold.

The final dividend, however, is maintained at 2.35p, making an unchanged total of 4.1p. Christopher Pope, the chairman, said diversification had distracted management and resulted in a year that was a "major setback". The A shares fell 7p to 95p.

The story was not as bleak

at Greene King, the East Anglian brewer, which saw pre-tax profits rise from £9.41 million to £11.02 million in the six months to October 28 and is raising its dividend from 2.9p to 3.3p.

But shareholders are braced for further bad news from the group's Big R Leisure roller-skating, ice rinks and nightclubs offshoot, which went into administrative receivership in August.

The four main assets are for sale and the subject of offers, but even if these are successful the eventual write-off is likely to be about £12 million after interest on the venture is taken into account.

The third reporting company, Mansfield Brewery, raised pre-tax profits from £4.31 million to £4.53 million in the six months to September 29.

The dividend increase, from 3.4p to 3.6p, was held back by a poor performance from its non-core activities, a restaurant chain and a carpet cleaning franchise.

The company is to withdraw from these, but there is an extraordinary charge of £1.94 million to cover losses.

Colloids margins shrink

By PHILIP PANGALOS

INCREASED costs at Allied Colloids, the special chemicals group, restricted pre-tax profit growth to 1 per cent, from £19.2 million to £19.4 million in the six months to September 29. Gordon Senior, finance director, said margins had "slipped a little", from 18.6 per cent to 17.1 per cent.

Profits were held back by investment in logistical systems and costs associated with commissioning the company's new American plant.

Group sales were ahead 9 per cent to £113 million, with 82 per cent of the total going overseas. United Kingdom sales grew from £17 million to £19.8 million, while overseas sales increased from £86.3 million to £93.3 million.

The company expressed some caution on second-half prospects with regard to "the increasingly adverse international outlook".

Allied stressed, however, that current market indications still support the expectation of continuing growth in sales and profits in the second half. Earnings edged up to 4.63p (4.61p), while the interim dividend is raised to 0.8p (0.75p). Interest receipts declined from £864,000 to £611,000.

Elders director faces 37 charges in Rothwells case

Perth. A DIRECTOR of Elders DXL has been arrested on 37 charges involving Rothwells, the failed financier.

Geoffrey Frederick Lord, former chief executive of Elders Resources NZFP and still a director of Elders DXL, was remanded on bail until February 13, Western Australian state government investigators said.

Mr Lord is charged with criminal offences under the Companies Code, relating to Elders Resources purchase of about Aus\$20 million (£8.06 million) worth of shares in Paragon Resources, the gold miner. One alleges that Mr Lord conspired with others to fraudulently affect the price of Paragon shares between June and December 1987, the investigators said in a statement.

Mr Lord resigned from Elders Resources in August after Carter Holt Harvey, the New Zealand company, bought control from Elders DXL.

The charges were laid by the state government-appointed Rothwells task force and arise from a report into the collapse of Rothwells by Malcolm

McCusker, the investigator. On Friday, Laurie Connell, Rothwells' former chairman, and Dallas Dempster, the millionaire casino developer, were charged under the Companies Code with offences involving Rothwells.

Last week, Elders DXL shareholders voted to change the company's name to Foster's Brewing Group Ltd. An Australian stock exchange spokesman said the company would continue to be quoted as Elders until it was officially informed of the name change. (Reuters)



Remanded: Geoffrey Lord

Watchdog drafts new rule book

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro) has decided not to dispense with detailed rules after representations from members worried that this would lead to confusion and uncertainty.

A new draft rule book greatly simplifies rules for prior agreements with customers and cuts the categories of customers from four to two: private and business. But business customers such as pension fund trustees can opt for the more formal private customer agreement and vice versa.

The new rules are couched in the form of a readable working manual with notes and guidance on compliance. Rules on several subjects, including soft commissions, marketing of retail investment products, cold-calling potential customers and treatment of client money are still subject to review being carried out by the Securities and Investments Board.

John Morgan, Imro's director-general, said the new rules, though shorter, simpler and more flexible, would not water down protection for the private investor.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Esselte's main backer files for bankruptcy

MOBILIA, a Swedish investment company which owns a majority share in Esselte, the world's largest office equipment firm, has applied to the Stockholm district court to declare itself bankrupt. The highly leveraged company, owned by Gerhard and Peo Lindholm, was unable to pay its debts of Kr2.2 billion (£203 million).

The decline of Mobilia, which owns 37 per cent of Esselte, and has 44 per cent of the votes, came amid rising problems at Esselte, which announced last week a 71 per cent fall in profits for the nine-month period to September. This and the rising problems at Mobilia prompted the resignation of Gerhard Lindholm as chairman.

Serif Cowells in MBO talks

SHARES in Serif Cowells, the USM leisure and printing group, which makes the Trivial Pursuit board game, are being sold to a management buyout (MBO). The management group, which hopes to offer 50p a share, has control of about 59.4 per cent of the company's equity.

Society loan rules change

THE Building Societies Commission's aggregation rules, which come into effect on December 31, will make it easier for building societies to buy mortgage books through subsidiary companies and to securitise loans. They propose that when mortgages on residential property are bought, they should be treated as other building society loans.

Reed Executive slides

REED Executive, the high street employment agency, suffered a further decline in first-half profits, down 35 per cent, and gave warning that there was "significantly worse" to come in the second half. The shares lost 6p to 29p. Pre-tax profits fell from £3.91 million to £2.55 million in the half year to September 28. Turnover slipped from £70.3 million to £68.1 million, although the company believes that its market share is up, against an estimated 25 per cent decline for the industry as a whole. Earnings per share fell from 4.7p to 2.6p, but the interim dividend remains 0.6p.

Leeds boost for charities

THE Leeds Permanent Building Society has raised about £2 million for three charities through its affinity credit card. The society, which launched its card two years ago, has issued 300,000 cards. The Imperial Cancer Research Fund has received more than £1 million, Mencap £455,000 and the British Heart Foundation £426,000.

Bank warns Soviet Union

THE Soviet Union has been given a warning by Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, not to allow the pursuit of economic and political change to lead to the break-up of its currency union. He said in Moscow that any break-up would give outsiders and notably potential foreign investors a "cause for concern".

Holmes & Marchant fall

HOLMES & Marchant Group, the marketing consultancy, has cut its final dividend to 3.3p (4.5p), making a total of 6.6p (7.5p) after suffering a 43 per cent profit decline. Pre-tax profits plunged to £4.38 million (£7.67 million) in the year to end-September, after exceptional reorganisation costs and a jump in interest payments.

Turnover was marginally ahead from £55.3 million to £55.8 million, while operating profits slipped from £8.15 million to £7.1 million. Earnings per share fell from 30.2p to 19.6p. The shares, which traded at a high of 240p earlier in the year, were unchanged at 45p.

COMPANY BRIEFS

IN SHOPS (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.91m (£1.32m)
EPS: 3.74p (3.41p)
Div: 0.66p (0.6p)

LEEDS GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £4.01m (£3.4m)
EPS: 25.2p (22.6p)
Div: 6.25p (mkg 5.25p)

CHILTERN RADIO (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.22m (£0.95m)
EPS: 14.3p (11.8p)
Div: 4.8p (4.4p)

COURTS (FURNISHERS)
Pre-tax: £3.65m (£3.12m)
EPS: 9.41p (7.95p)
Div: 1.83p (1.83p)

EVANS OF LEEDS (Int)
Pre-tax: £3.3m (£3.22m)
EPS: 3.35p (3.18p)
Div: 1.18p (1.125p)

ATKINS BROS (Int)
Pre-tax: £192,000
Div: 3.6p (3.6p)

Turnover £10.1m (£8.68m). Write-off of £295,000, relating to leisure interests. Board expects another year of profits growth.

Last year's total dividend was 8.5p. Turnover rose 20% to £33m. Year-end cash balances were £1.3m, with no bank borrowings.

Chiltem buying Gloucestershire Broadcasting for up to £1.3m. Turnover £4.1m (£3.55m). Caution needed on short-term outlook.

Interim results. Turnover £73.5m (£68.5m). Good increase in trading levels so far in second half in both Britain and overseas.

Total revenue climbed to £8.23m (£6.67m). Company reports that its current annual rent roll is £15.7m.

Last time's profit was £250,000. Turnover fell to £7.77m (£10.1m). Earnings per share 3.63p (4.14p).

Building chiefs give jobs alert

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BUILDING employers have given warning that at least 100,000 jobs could be lost in construction and have called for an early cut in interest rates to help alleviate the worst recession in the industry in living memory.

Sir Clifford Chestwood, president of the Building Employers' Confederation, painted a stark picture of further company bankruptcies, job losses and a looming training crisis. Speaking at the confederation's annual dinner in London, Sir Clifford said the cause was "the worst recession of any I have experienced during a lifetime in the construction industry".

The depth and pace of the recession which had hit construction in 1990 was on a scale no one could have predicted. He warned that to

the end of next year, the industry faced "job losses of at least 100,000, probably more", a dramatic fall in the number of new trainees, greater import penetration of domestic material supplies, more extensive European competition and a rising tide of UK company bankruptcies.

He said: "There is an inclination for us to look around central London, or the centres of other major cities, and take comfort from the vista of builders' cranes dominating the skyline. Enjoy it while you can. Pretty soon the cranes will be coming down all over Britain."

Sir Clifford called on the government to make a further cut in interest rates of at least two points - if possible before Christmas and certainly before next spring's Budget.

Polly Peck enquiry moves to Cyprus

By MATTHEW BOND

A TEAM of accountants from Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte has flown to northern Cyprus to establish the size of Polly Peck resources held there.

Their departure followed the lifting of a court injunction blocking access to Polly Peck subsidiaries on the island. Richard Stone, one of three administrators appointed to run Polly Peck by the High Court in October, will leave for northern Cyprus today to head the investigation.

Mr Stone said his first priority will be to establish the position of the trading subsidiaries held on the island. The biggest of these are Sunest and Unipac.

"We will be taking a positive role to establish what we have there and what we have to do to maintain operations," Mr Stone will also be in-

vestigating reports that up to £200 million is held on deposit there.

"That is obviously going to form some part of our review," he said. He would not be drawn on how much money he expected to find on the island, which is the heart of the Polly Peck empire.

Mr Stone said he expected to be in northern Cyprus for a couple of days, although his team would be staying longer.

The court injunction, which was imposed soon after Polly Peck was placed in administration, was lifted after the intervention of Asil Nadir, the chairman.

Mr Nadir assured the local citrus growers who had obtained the injunction that he would meet any losses they might incur in the wake of the injunction being lifted.

"CONFIDENT AND CONSISTENT ACHIEVEMENT. I am pleased with Anglian Water's progress in our first six months of this financial year.

We are on course to meet our targets, both financial and in terms of service to customers. We are particularly pleased with the response to our loan stock issue, our high credit rating and our new status as a FT-SE 100 company. Management and all our employees provide a strong team dedicated to service to our customers, improving the environment and providing a good return for our shareholders. In the absence of unforeseen circumstances I am confident about the outcome for the full year."

Chairman, Bernard Henderson, CBE.

The Directors are pleased to report a Group operating profit for the half year ended 30th September 1990, up by some 20.3% on the half year to September 1989, of £92.3m on turnover of £228.5m. Profit on ordinary activities before taxation was £84.4m.

The Board has declared an interim dividend of 5.8p (net) per ordinary share, which will be paid on 4th March 1991 to shareholders on the register on 28th January 1991.

It should be emphasised that the results for the first half year do not fully reflect costs which will arise in the second half year as a consequence of the gradual build up of capital and revenue programmes and certain seasonal costs (eg. the pumping costs associated with recharging surface water reservoirs in the winter). The profit figure should not therefore be taken as indicative of the full year results.

During the period we have continued the successful start on the implementation of our 10 year, £3.5 billion investment programme which will bring about major improvements in both water quality and the water environment.

Anglian Water's investment in additional groundwater schemes and reinforcement of the distribution network, together with good management of surface water resources ensured that supplies were maintained with few restrictions despite the exceptionally dry summer. However, very substantial rainfall is still needed this winter to recharge aquifers before we can lift the hosepipe ban in parts of the region.

The hot dry weather increased the threat of a reappearance of the blue-green algae experienced last year.

We took early action to contain this phenomenon and treatment at our major reservoirs successfully ensured that occurrences of algae were limited.

The Group obtained excellent credit ratings from two major international agencies and we were the first of the privatised water companies to access the public debt markets through the issue of £100 million index-linked 18 year loan stock in July.

Since the 30th September, Anglian has joined the FT-SE 100 Index of leading stocks which reinforces Anglian's position as one of the UK's leading companies.

NOTES

1. The financial information contained in this interim statement does not constitute statutory accounts within the meaning of Section 240 of the Companies Act 1985.

2. The interim results for the six months ended 30th September 1990

have been prepared on the basis of the historic cost accounting policies set out in the published accounts of Anglian Water Plc for the year ended 31st March 1990.

Comparisons with audited results for the year ended 31st March 1989 are distorted by the fact that these results included interest on loans to HM Government that were subsequently written off when the company was privatised and that the company was only operating as a public limited company for part of this period.

3. The tax charge for the six months ended 30th September 1990 is the Advance Corporation Tax payable in respect of the interim dividend.

4. Comparative figures for earnings and dividends per ordinary share for the period ended 30th September 1989 have not been presented. The number of shares in issue and the actual profits for that period are not considered to be representative of the Group's position following implementation of the new capital structure post privatisation. Pro-forma earnings per ordinary share for the year ended 31st March 1990 have been presented. This has been calculated by dividing pro-forma profit on ordinary activities after taxation by the ordinary shares in issue. The pro-forma profit on ordinary activities after taxation has

been calculated by adjusting actual profit before taxation of £86.1m for a £52.9m reduction in interest payable (to reflect the interest saving that would have arisen if the new capital structure had been in place from 1st April 1989) and for a pro-forma Advance Corporation Tax charge of £15.0m (based upon a notional dividend of £45.1m which the Directors considered they would have recommended if the new capital structure had been in force from 1st April 1989).

Copies of this statement are available from the Company Secretary at the registered office of the company (Anglian House, Ambury Road, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 6NZ).

GROUP RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1990 (unaudited)

Year ended 31st March 1990	Notes	1990	1989
(audited)	(unaudited) (unaudited)		
£M	£M	£M	£M
401.3	TURNOVER	228.5	199.5
154.7	OPERATING PROFIT	92.3	76.7
0.4	Other income	0.3	0.2
(69.0)	Net interest payable	(8.2)	(48.4)
	PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	84.4	28.5
(10.0)	Taxation	(5.7)	—
	PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION	78.7	28.5
(2.7)	Extraordinary items	—	(6.7)
68.4	PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS	78.7	21.8
(30.1)	Dividends	(17.1)	—
38.3	RETAINED PROFITS	61.6	21.8
*42.1p	EARNINGS PER ORDINARY SHARE	26.7p	—
18.21p (net)	DIVIDEND PER ORDINARY SHARE	5.8p (net)	—

*Pro-forma basis - see note 4.

Anglian Water Plc

QUALITY
SERVICE
CARE
INVESTMENT
FOCUS
MANAGEMENT

INTERIM RESULTS TO SEPTEMBER 30TH 1990

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-31
● LAW 37
● SPORT 38-42

BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Electricity sell-off could be a record

THE offer of shares in the 12 regional electricity distributors, which closes today, is almost certain to be oversubscribed, with cheques from the public worth more than the value of the shares on offer already received by the banks handling the issue.

By last night, the receiving banks had already processed 1.7 million applications from the public and the issue is now heading for a place in the record books if it outstrips the 4.5 million people who bought shares in British Gas.

The average sum invested is £500. The first instalment on the shares is worth £2.17 billion and, if private investors apply for more than 35 per cent of the issue, clawback provisions increase the public's share at the expense of the institutions, assuming an even spread of interest around the 12 companies.

The deadline for handing in completed application forms is 10am today at one of 21 special receiving centres, three of them in London.

Walker talks

George Walker, the embattled head of the Brent Walker Group, is facing problems in his talks with Standard Chartered, his principal bank, on the issue of his replacement as chairman. Brent's shares fell 9p to 78p.

Mr Walker signalled his willingness to stand down, while retaining the chief executive role, this week but he is thought to be insisting on the right of veto over who becomes chairman.

Norcross cut

The Norcross building products group has cut its interim dividend from 5p to 3.5p on pre-tax profits down from £18.3 million to £9.8 million and earnings a share down from 8.3p to 4.4p.

Tempus, page 27

Siebe pays more

Siebe reports pre-tax profits of £83.3 million for the six months to the end of September (£80.8 million) and earnings a share up from 24.4p to 25.6p. The interim dividend is increased from 5p to 5.5p.

Tempus, page 27

German growth

The economy of West Germany grew by 5.5 per cent in the third quarter compared with the same period last year, its strongest quarterly advance since 1976.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9245 (+0.0040)
German mark 2.8954 (-0.0046)
Exchange index 93.6 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1681.6 (-13.7)
FT-SE 100 2146.3 (-16.4)
New York Dow Jones 2566.58 (+0.99)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 21862.61 (-863.38)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 14%
3-month Interbank 13% 13%
3-month money bills 13% 12%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 7 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.02-7.00%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£: \$1.9245 \$: £0.5199
E: DM2.8954 DM: £0.3453
E: Sfr2.4720 Sfr: £0.4042
E: FF5.7832 FF: £0.1936
E: Yen258.08 Yen: £0.0039
E: Index 93.6 Index: 61.3
ECU 10.70612 ECU: £0.0927
E: ECU 11.6145 ECU: £0.0851

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$377.00 pm \$377.80
close \$377.50-378.00 (£195.75)
New York:
Comex \$379.15-379.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) \$30.00 bbl (\$29.65)
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.59	2.61
Austria Sch	13.76	13.80
Belgium Fr	2.35	2.36
Canada \$	0.71	0.72
Denmark Kr	7.33	7.38
Finland Mk	5.94	5.99
France Fr	10.19	10.24
Germany DM	3.19	3.20
Greece Dr	15.55	15.60
Hong Kong \$	7.75	7.80
Ireland P	2.27	2.28
Italy Lit	272.50	273.00
Japan Yen	11.83	11.88
Netherlands Gld	2.50	2.51
Norway Kr	4.80	4.82
Portugal Esc	206.50	207.00
South Africa R	1.92	1.93
Spain Ptas	166.37	166.87
Sweden Kr	10.19	10.24
Switzerland Fr	2.50	2.51
Turkey Lira	2.01	2.02
Yugoslavia Dnr	33.00	33.10

Ofgas says British Gas must raise competition

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH Gas will have to start releasing supplies to increase competition in the gas market significantly - otherwise its own future will be called into question.

This warning was given in a speech by James McKinnon, director-general of the office of gas supplies (Ofgas), the gas industry watchdog, in which for the first time he said the market share held by competitors of British Gas should be 30 per cent in three years. British Gas said it would begin

releasing supplies only when the circumstances to do so were right.

While Mr McKinnon's attack sets a new target on market share, it was the angry tone of his remarks to a conference in Birmingham that took British Gas officials by surprise, though the company insisted it did not mark any significant deterioration of relations between itself and Ofgas.

Speaking at the national energy management exhibition and conference, Mr McKinnon said that in his report on the gas industry in October 1988, the monopolies and mergers commission had set the

objective of effective competition in the gas industry by 1993.

As a "realistic first step" towards that, the competitive market share should be 30 per cent by October 1993. He said: "Ultimately the market composition should result in British Gas' share being substantially reduced so that technically it would cease to be a monopolist."

To achieve that, there would have to be a gradual build-up of established levels of competitive supplies, to "fully realistic" minimum targets of 400 million therms in 1991, double that the next year and 1.2 billion therms in 1993.

Ofgas says even that would represent only 10 per cent of the new supplies it believes will be coming through by the mid-Nineties.

But Mr McKinnon said the supplies would have to come from British Gas, because it was the only source of gas available in that time. "I am, therefore, calling on it to take immediate action to release the necessary supplies," British Gas had abundant supplies and only the mix of suppliers, not the overall size, of the market would change in that period.

Progress by British Gas towards the 1993 position outlined by the

MMC had so far been "bleak". The company was holding up progress, and its claimed achievements had a "hollow sound". British Gas had been "in no rush to accept the challenge to develop a fully competitive market by the end of five years." British Gas seemed unable "to come to terms with the fact that its monopoly has come to an end", though after accusations from some gas customers that the company "abuses its power by introducing arbitrary price increases" the end of the monopoly could not come too soon for most.

He said: "British Gas also fails to

recognise that it would be in its own interests as well as everyone else's if the MMC deadline of 1993 were to be met. The very future of British Gas will be called into question if this target is not achieved." The consequences for the company of its not achieving these competitive targets by this time "could be extremely severe".

British Gas said that by 1993 there would "undoubtedly" be a significant level of competition in the gas market, but it was "not appropriate" to talk in terms of engineering market shares. That had to be left to market forces.

GEC expects 6,000 more jobs will go

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE General Electric Company expects to shed 6,000 jobs in the second half after a 6,400 cut during the half year to end-September.

Lord Weinstock, managing director, said the job losses were caused both by defence spending reductions and delays, and tightening economic conditions. "No one can look at the world economy today and be optimistic for the immediate future," he said.

The job losses are expected to take effect at GEC operating companies world-wide, by non-replacement and redundancy. Lord Weinstock estimated the cost at £14-£15 million for the year in addition to provisions already made. By next March the number of employees is to fall to 161,000.

Profits from the Plessey and Ferranti businesses acquired by GEC failed during the first half to make up for the loss of interest on the cash spent to acquire them. In spite of 14 per cent higher operating profits, a £54 million fall in interest income left GEC's group pre-tax profits 4 per cent lower at £342 million. Sales rose 20 per cent to £4.4 billion. The half-year dividend is held at 2.55p. GEC shares fell 8 1/2p to 176 1/2p.

Malcolm Bates, deputy managing director, believed it would be "not too long" before the dilution of earnings resulting from acquisitions was "worked through" by cost-cutting and efficiencies

achieved through mergers with GEC units.

Lord Prior, the chairman, is strengthening the GEC board with the appointment of Anthony O'Reilly, the executive president of ICI Hazop, as a non-executive director.

Orders rose by 36 per cent to £10.8 billion, due only partly to acquisitions. "I have no doubt that the policy of gaining access to new markets through partners is absolutely the right thing to have done," said Lord Weinstock.

Joint ventures, including GEC Alsthom, the transport and power engineering company equally owned with Compagnie Générale d'Electricité of France, and GPT, the telecoms partnership with Siemens of Germany, accounted for £4.8 billion of the orders.

Spending on research and development increased by a third to £447 million. Lord Weinstock said that was partly a consequence of acquisitions, but R&D spending would climb as the technological sophistication of GEC products increased.

GEC's cash pile has recovered to £974 million. GEC Alsthom has begun due diligence studies of Fiat Ferroviaria, maker of the successful Italian tilting train, which it is in talks to buy. The company has annual sales of £125 million.

Fiat Ferroviaria is owned by Fiat, the Italian car company. Mr Bates said the Italian railway network was likely to need a big re-equipment over

the coming decade, but he added that the tilting train might find a market in Britain.

GEC's £1.3 billion of acquisitions and its joint venture programme have brought a timely reduction in its dependence on defence markets, which now account for 20-25 per cent of sales.

The Gulf confrontation has led to new orders, although others have been cancelled or delayed. Despite suggestions that Germany may withdraw from the European fighter aircraft programme, for which GEC will provide the radar, Lord Weinstock said there was no threat to the plane's development programme.

The Royal Air Force would need the aircraft, he said, and "it seems probable that Italy and Spain will want it too."

Electronic systems accounted for almost one-third of operating profits during the first half. The division includes Matra Marconi Espace, a new joint venture, which includes much of GEC's defence electronics business.

Power Systems, largely GEC Alsthom, the power engineering and railway rolling stock company, made £58 million. Telecommunications, now dominated by the GPT joint venture with Siemens, made £53 million. It has won a contract with British Telecom for its System X exchanges which is potentially worth £1 billion.

Capital spending continues to grow. Net of disposals, this year's total should easily pass last year's £244 million.

'£6bn boost' for water

ANDREW BOURNE



Steady as she goes: Bernard Henderson at Grafham Water, Cambridgeshire

PROPOSED European Community legislation about dumping sewage at sea may be toned down, saving the water industry an estimated £5 billion the measures would cost over the next decade, according to Bernard Henderson, the chairman of Anglian Water.

Anglian has reported pre-tax profits ahead from a pro forma £70.5 million to £84.4

million in the six months to end-September and an interim dividend of 5.8p, 13.5 per cent above the national figure last time.

The water industry hopes to hear before Christmas about the delayed draft directive on municipal waste water, said Mr Henderson.

The British government has

already said it will ban the sea dumping of sludge by 1998, but the EC directive goes further, and association figures suggest it could cost £6 billion in all to implement. "It does seem the European Commission may be having second thoughts about its proposals," said Mr Henderson.

Tempus, page 27

Burmah raises bid for Foseco

By MARTIN BARROW

BURMAH Castrol, the lubricants and chemicals group, has increased its hostile cash bid for Foseco from 275p a share to 300p. This final offer values the speciality chemicals concern at £259 million.

The revised offer was rejected by Foseco. Tom Long, chairman, said the new terms fell "woefully short of recognising the underlying value of Foseco's unique worldwide business".

Foseco shares rose from 280p to the offer price before falling back 4p, enabling Burmah Castrol's advisers to buy stock in the market. By the close, they had bought a further 6.1 per cent, taking Burmah Castrol's holding to 20.75 per cent. Acceptances for the initial offer covered under 1 per cent.

The new closing date is December 21. Burmah Castrol has reserved the right to increase the offer if there is a rival bid. Other conditions, including the right to lapse the offer if crude oil exceeds \$50 a barrel, remain unchanged.

Jonathan Fry, managing director of Burmah Castrol, said the higher offer fully valued Foseco. The offer represents a premium of 61.7 per cent over the mid-market price of 185.5p on October 12, the last dealing day before the original offer.

Rejecting the revised terms, the Foseco board said it was considering "a number of proposals to enhance shareholder value which will be announced shortly".

The company issued a profit forecast as part of its defence, indicating that profits before tax will be £40.5 million for 1990, against £46.2 million in 1989. A final dividend of 9.5p was promised, making 14.5p, up 7 per cent. Mr Long said that the company is to sell two divisions.

Industry squeezed by low liquidity

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

HIGH interest rates and falling earnings have tightened the squeeze on the corporate sector, pushing the liquidity ratio for big manufacturing companies to its lowest since the mid-Seventies.

This deterioration looks set to continue as the recession deepens, and threatens vital investment in industry in the run-up to a single European market.

Third-quarter figures from the Central Statistical Office showed that current assets as a percentage of current liabilities dropped to 38 per cent for large manufacturing firms from 44 per cent the previous quarter.

The liquidity ratio of all large industrial and commercial companies fell to 60 per cent in the third quarter from 66 per cent, as companies ran down total current assets to £31.5 billion from £33.5 billion, while liabilities grew to £52.2 billion from £50.5 billion.

George Hodgson, market strategist at Warburg Securities, said the figures confirm

that the corporate sector is "under enormous pressure" that would intensify into the second half next year. Having halted merger and acquisition activity, and undertaken what destocking they could, companies would now cut fixed investment. He predicted a "grim" 1991, as earnings continue to worsen. "The risk has to be that the liquidity ratio will move still deeper and rigs will be pulled by nervous bankers."

Ruth Lea, an economist at Mitsubishi Bank, said the picture was consistent with deep recession. "And this is not necessarily the bottom."

Gleam Davies, chief economist at Credit Lyonnais, feared the window of opportunity for a base rate cut may have been missed, given the Bundesbank's return to variable rate repurchase for its latest money market tender, seen to signal a trend towards higher interest rates.

Britain's official gold and currency reserves fell an underlying \$85 million last month.

Fed relaxes rules on bank reserves

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE US Federal Reserve Board has relaxed its bank reserve requirements in a move designed to boost the profitability of the fragile American banking system and relieve the squeeze on credit.

The Fed said its action would free \$13.6 billion worth of reserves held by American banks against certain categories of wholesale deposits.

The new regulation abolishes the 3 per cent reserves that American banks have to hold against corporate time deposits and net liabilities in the Euro markets. This will free more funds for lending, enabling the banks to raise profits by earning interest on the extra lending.

Analysts on Wall Street said the regulations would save the American banking system about \$1 billion in pre-tax interest costs per year. Keefe Bruyette and Woods, the American broker that specialises in bank stocks, estimated that average bank earnings would rise by about 1 1/2 per cent. Although the move would be welcomed by banks

struggling with huge loan losses, it could be insufficient to have a material effect on any of the large American banks, several of which are believed to be incapable of survival in their present form.

The most significant aspect of the Fed's decision lay in its broader economic motivation. Yesterday's statement drew attention to the weakness of the American economy and indicated the central bank's concern.

The Fed said: "Commercial banks have been tightening their standards of creditworthiness and the terms and conditions for many types of loans. While much of this tightening has been welcome... it has in recent months begun to exert a contractionary influence on the economy."

Meanwhile, Michael Boskin, the chief economist at the White House, confirmed the American economy would decline in the current quarter. The news increased speculation that American interest rates would be cut again soon.

Trafalgar shares up as profits fall

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in Trafalgar House jumped 14p to 188p, as the engineering to shipping conglomerate reported property provisions in line with expectations and maintained its final dividend.

A £95 million writedown of the company's residential and commercial property activities reduced pre-tax profits in the year to end-September to £155.7 million, 42 per cent less than the £270 million made in 1989.

A big increase in the company's tax charge to 27 per cent, a direct result of lower profits in Britain,

Paying the dividend will require a £25 million transfer from reserves.

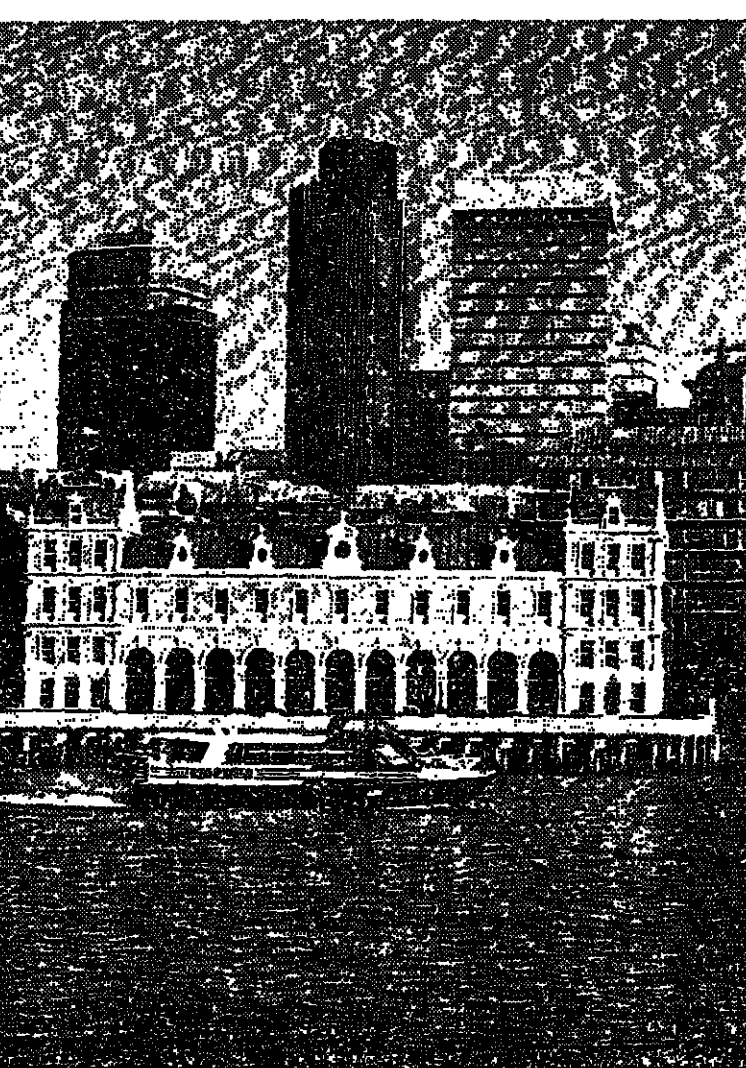
Eric Parker, Trafalgar's chief executive, said the slump in property profits had produced a more balanced spread of profits from the group's three divisions.

Mr Parker said the £95 million provision had three components. The value of properties held for sale had been reduced by £31 million, with the damage spread equally between the company's commercial and residential businesses. A further £53 million of previously capitalised interest had been written off.

million in 1989 to £454 million in 1990. In Britain, the company sold 2,500 houses at an average price of £75,000, compared with 3,400 last year. In America, 500 units were sold. Mr Parker admitted that the American housebuilding operation was losing money. The British operations "were just about profitable". Despite the fall in property sales, Trafalgar still increased group turnover 7 per cent to £3.5 billion.

At the year-end, net borrowings were £345 million, giving gearing of about 42 per cent. The value of property

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BILLINGS GATE

Utmost bad taste at Lloyd's of London

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Controversy is seldom far below the well-heeled surface of Lloyd's, hub of the world insurance market. It is relatively rare, however, for the dogs to start eating each other in public and, when the words "Lloyd's stinks" appear in a letter from a leading member of the fraternity to the head of regulatory services, it is time for the world to sit up and take notice.

To be fair to James M Sinclair, the managing director of Willis Faber & Dumas (Agencies), who penned the words, he was reflecting the opinions of a group of names he inherited when Willis Faber took over Stewart Wrightson.

Mr Sinclair, the man who has been handed the shovel to clean out one of the Lloyd's stables, added that his names feel that "the way the society is carrying on you cannot have any confidence in Lloyd's — policies, regulatory control or agents".

At the heart of the matter is the repudiation of a reinsurance contract taken out by the syndicate, for which Mr Sinclair now acts. It was underwritten by

a Merrett syndicate, and was repudiated years after it was written. Merrett won the dispute at arbitration because of a legal precedent set several years after the contract was written. The basis for repudiation was one of non-disclosure, even though the reinsurance contract had been audited as sound.

In seeking to repudiate the contract, Merrett can hardly be blamed. It had a chance to get out of some expensive losses, and would have had to answer to its own names had it paid out when it could opt out. Little can now be done for the unfortunate names of syndicate 334, faced with nearly £30 million of losses, other than ask Mary Archer, who chairs the hardship fund, to go easy on them when claiming the money back.

The point of Mr Sinclair's letter, however, is deeper than the specific case of one or two syndicates.

He is distressed at the failure of

Lloyd's contracts "and other distasteful aspects of the communities (sic) tactics in bouncing liability around the market". He says that Lloyd's will have "a very high price to pay for the clottish underwriting policy of a few of our greedy underwriters... and it will all happen in the next 24 months".

The basis of the Lloyd's market, and indeed of any insurance contract the world over, is "utmost good faith" and Lloyd's is quick to point out that in 300 years no client has ever been refused payment of a valid claim. That word valid, however, is unacceptably loaded.

Lloyd's has had more than its share of scandals over the past 15 years and even now innocent

names are fighting to limit losses caused by incompetence or worse. Members' agents, who happily took their commissions for years, are claiming they had no duty of care to names. Lloyd's has similarly argued that they owed no such legal duty. It is impossible to disagree with the conclusions set out in Mr Sinclair's letter, that "names will herd out of the market as confidence plummets".

Trafalgar

Sir Nigel Brookes has shown his experience by preparing the stock market well for the heavy write-offs Trafalgar House took on its property book at its

September 30 year-end. His shares, having collapsed from 296p before the interim results in May, recovered 14p to 188p after a strong performance from the construction and engineering business allowed Trafalgar to make £38 million of profits in the second half, even after charging £95 million against residential and commercial property developments.

Some rethinking will also be needed on a share that yields 13 per cent when the final dividend has confidently been maintained, asset value is not far behind the share price, gearing is down and there are no liquidity problems. John Brown and Cementation still have a strong order book. The imponderable for 1990-91, however, is what will happen to the property market. Sir Nigel, who is noted for caution, thinks it can now get no worse, though he is not looking for much early improvement.

If there is an upturn before

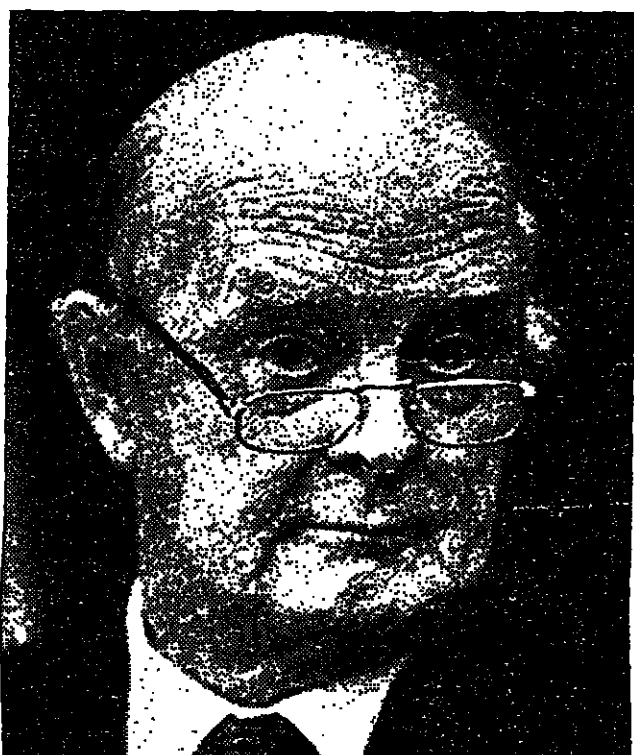
next September, the residential side will benefit first and Trafalgar would be able to boost its liquidity further. A recovery in the dollar would help too, especially on the leisure side.

The group has fallen so far from favour that Sir Nigel is now free to change strategy and probably needs to. The appointment of foreign affairs expert David Howell is one pointer. This could be the moment to move the international construction and engineering group more strongly on to the Continent and to capitalise on John Brown's established reputation in Eastern Europe.

What were once diversifications now look like the powerhouse for the future with expertise in most of the right technologies, from gas power stations to offshore oil.

There will be plenty of bad news from others to stop City sceptics becoming too optimistic on Trafalgar's dividend for many months ahead. For once, therefore, time is on the side of Sir Nigel's languid style, which disguises the ability to move fast when conditions change.

Kindling a strategy for coal in the Nineties



Sir Robert Haslam: final challenge before retiring

SIR Robert Haslam, the chairman of British Coal, will today set forth the challenges ahead for the corporation as it faces its most difficult market conditions since nationalisation of the industry in 1947.

His task is not merely difficult; in certain respects it is impossible. Coal is the main fuel for electricity generation in Britain. The privatisation of power is now irrevocably under way.

Yet electricity has been prepared for privatisation without the emergence of a clear strategy for coal. Many within the coal industry argue that it has been compelled to underwrite the flotation by accepting unprofitable contracts. In a free market, they argue, British coal would command a premium price for the security and convenience of the supplies it offers.

The failure to implement simultaneous structural reform of the coal industry has already caused the energy department and its agents to fall foul of the European competition directorate.

The government wants to privatise British Coal, but is unwilling to do so until the electorate has approved a manifesto promise. But many of the issues simply cannot be shelved until the next election is out of the way.

John Wakeham, the energy secretary, is already faced with an unusual opportunity to set the tone at British Coal for the next half decade. None of the six executive directors has a contract that runs beyond March next year. Sir Robert's appointment expires on December 31. Announcement of a successor is overdue. In order to persuade them, or their successors, to accept new appointments, Mr Wakeham is likely to have to spell out the corporation's future.

During his spell as energy secretary, Nigel Lawson detailed the past failure of efforts to predict, and plan for, energy demand. In consequence, he said, market forces should prevail. That is a view held by Mr Wakeham, who this week endorsed moves towards a pan-European energy market. In the Seventies era of high oil prices, Britain's depen-

dence on coal was a blessing. Since then, real energy prices have fallen. The relatively minor impact of the Gulf events on energy markets is proof that more diversity of supplies has largely overcome the scarcity threat.

British Coal has contracted sharply since the collapse of the miners' strike in 1985. The number of collieries is down from 169 to 69. The workforce has fallen from 171,000 to 65,400. Output, including open-cast and independent mines, has dropped from 118.4 million tonnes to 108.9 million. Productivity per man/shift has risen from 12.02 tonnes to 20.52 tonnes.

British Coal has been compelled to undertake a three-year contract to supply the electricity generators at £42 per tonne. Last year it sold them 82.2 million tonnes. This year and next, they will take 70 million tonnes and in the 12 months to March 1993, when the contract expires, they will buy 65 million tonnes from British Coal. It is a fast-reducing market. In response to the European Commission's large combus-

tion plant directive, the government has given undertakings to cut emissions of sulphur dioxide from British power stations by 20 per cent by 1993, 40 per cent by 1998 and 60 per cent by 2003.

The generators have responded with a limited programme for fine-gas desulphurisation. Their main strategy is gradually to cut coal-burning, replace as much high-sulphur British coal as possible with imports, and meet rises in power demand with more efficient gas-fired plants. Health authorities and other large coal users affected by the directive are also making plans for gas-firing.

In the coal industry there are forecasts of a cut in deep-mined coal production over the next three years from 75.6 million tonnes to 57 million tonnes. That implies the loss of 17 pits and 15,000 jobs.

Not all British coal is uncompetitive. Despite the problems of depth and fragmented seams, fine British coal pits produce below the international market price of £30 a tonne. Open-cast mines are constrained only by environmental concerns. Imported coal would be costly to transport to many inland power stations, largely served by nearby mines. Twelve-year rolling contracts with individual pits, on the American model, could be justified at prices well above the quayside import price.

There could be a risk that independent generating companies, entering the power market in three years or less with gas-fired plants, will complain to the European Commission that coal-burners are being feather-bedded with government-subsidised coal.

The Commission is already pressing for Britain's small, but vociferous, independent mine operators to be allowed expansion opportunities and equal access to the power generation market. Like it or not, the privatisation of the coal industry has begun. Finding an appropriate route for British Coal is an imperative, not an option.

ROSS TIEMAN
Industrial Correspondent

Jury still out on Siebe acquisition

ANALYSTS remain bitterly divided over whether Siebe's \$656 million acquisition of Foxboro will make or break the company.

Some consider Siebe a highly geared play with too much exposure to the North American economy, which accounts for 44 per cent of sales. Others believe Siebe found a bargain in Foxboro and that its shares, which have underperformed the market by more than 40 per cent since June, are undervalued.

It is difficult to see much upside in any engineering company these days, let alone one so dependent on American customers to finance the integration of a business that clearly lost its way some years ago.

Foxboro came in too late to affect Siebe's interim figures. Taxable profits were up to £85.3 million (£80.8 million) and earnings were up to 25.6p a share (24.4p). The interim dividend is increased from 5p a share to 5.5p.

Group borrowings stand at £689 million, which equates to gearing of 103 per cent, according to the company's calculations. But the figures have benefited from the revaluation of Foxboro's assets, which were on the American company's books at \$182 million pre-acquisition and have been written up \$445 million by Siebe, with intan-

TEMPUS

gible assets accounting for \$383 million.

Borrowings will have a negative impact during the second half and a decline in full-year profits from £181.3 million to about £160 million would be no surprise, putting the shares, up 7p to 30p, on a prospective multiple of six. For the time being, the odds appear stacked against Siebe.

Anglian Water

ANGLIAN Water deserves its place at the top end of the water company share price table. Its management is regarded by the City as one of the best in the business, a £100 million foray into the sterling bond market looks well timed and could eventually be followed by a similar move in America when needed, and the company is avoiding unwise diversification.

But its best decision may turn out to be staying well out of the "dividend war" that has broken out with the latest round of water company trading statements. The first shot was fired by Thames, with a 19 per cent increase. Anglian has restricted itself to a 13.5 per cent rise on the notional figure, leaving room for further improvement as circumstances allow.

Other recent surveys. The IOD says its figures are more up to date.

Directors questioned forecast pay rises of 9.5 per cent for 1991, but the study believes mounting pressures for restraint may lead to more modest rises.

Employment department figures for the year ending September show that national pay rises averaged 10.25 per

turnover

Turnover was up by 14.5 per cent, against a rise in charges of 13.2 per cent. Operating profit to end-September rose by 20 per cent to £92.3 million, while lower than expected interest charges meant a similar increase to £84.4 million compared with the pro forma figure at the pre-tax line.

Anglian's K factor, by which it can increase charges, is in the middle of the range for the ten companies and it is well advanced with its £3.5 billion, ten-year capital spending programme.

It should have no trouble reaching brokers' forecasts of £146 million pre-tax this year, while a continuation of current dividend policy leaves the shares yielding a prospective 6.8 per cent, just short of 0.6 of a percentage point below the package. A long-term hold, but no need to chase ahead of the electricity float.

Norcros

TO WILLIAMS Holdings, in March 1987, Norcros was worth 440p a share. To the stock market yesterday Norcros was worth just 118p. It is a telling comment that the market was unmoved by a near halving of half-year pre-

tax profits to £9.8 million and a cut in the interim dividend from 5p to 3.5p.

The dividend cut brings the yield down to 9 per cent, based on brokers' forecasts of a total payout of 8p for this year. The cut also conserves precious cashflow, important when interest charges are up from £570,000 to £4 million.

Gearing will stick around 70 per cent for some time, as it would be unwise to expect disposals from the £68 million commercial property portfolio for something like two years. Efforts are being made to switch short-term borrowings into longer-term finance to match.

The property misadventure is all the worse because the main building products divisions are coming through the recession not too badly thanks to improved efficiencies from new equipment, site mergers and 2,500 job cuts in the past two years.

The stock market is cautious, at best, on the short-term prospects at Norcros, with brokers looking for no more than £23 million to £25 million this year against £67 million two years ago and £37.3 million in the year to end-March 1990. Come the joyous day of substantial base rate cuts, Norcros shares should be among the main beneficiaries.

Executive directors' pay rises 10.5%

SALARIES of company executive directors rose 10.5 per cent in the year to September, just 0.4 per cent below inflation (Ross Tieman writes).

However, the harsher economic climate is reflected in the pay packets of many senior executives, according to this year's *Directors' Rewards* survey.

The survey, covering 11,641 directors and 83,884 senior

executives, showed the average director in Britain is paid £40,000 a year. Non-executive directors topped the pay rise league, with increases averaging 13.5 per cent. Those of managing directors averaged 12.5 per cent.

The results of the study, carried out by the Institute of Directors and Reward Regional Surveys, show much more modest increases than

other recent surveys. The IOD says its figures are more up to date.

Directors questioned forecast pay rises of 9.5 per cent for 1991, but the study believes mounting pressures for restraint may lead to more modest rises.

Employment department figures for the year ending September show that national pay rises averaged 10.25 per

cent, with an average growth in service sector pay of 10 per cent, and a 9.5 per cent rise in manufacturing.

Among directors, the bottom 10 per cent of executive directors had salaries averaging £22,000, while those of the top 10 per cent averaged £74,000. Among companies with annual sales of more than £500 million, the highest salary was £122,250.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

The weight off Davies's mind

STEVE Davies, a former Pinchin Denny partner, has resigned from County NatWest, where he had been in charge of customer liquidity, and is to leave the City after 27 years. Davies, aged 43, a popular and cuddly figure, has vowed to take at least six months off before deciding what to do next. "After 27 years, I just wanted to spend some time away from the business," he tells me from his home at Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire. "I've probably been thinking about it for the past three or four years. The City has changed a lot during that time. Getting up at 5 am and not getting home until 9 pm probably had something to do with it. And I want to shed some of the 17 stones I now weigh. I've put on three stone this year." Davies admits, however, that he will probably end up returning to the Square Mile. "It's in my blood and it's still an exciting industry, but I'm going to keep away for a minimum of six months." When Pinchin became part of Morgan Grenfell, Davies ran the firm's market-making operation, leaving to be reunited with another ex-Pinchin colleague, Colin Mills, at County when Morgan Grenfell withdrew from market-making. Doug Baker will share Davies's former responsibilities.

Credit losses

THE long-suffering derivatives department at CSFB, the securities trading division of Credit Suisse, has suffered another blow. Andrew Talling, head of convertibles trading, and his number two, Keith Temperton, were dismissed by the firm last week for unknown reasons. The pair, who ran the derivatives trading desk, were told to pack their bags on Thursday evening and have not been heard of since. David Benson, head of UK trading, and one of a

Not so festive fate

CONTRARY to more exaggerated reports, the number of job losses at Hoare Govett between now and Christmas, both from natural wastage and redundancies, is likely to be about 12. Since some of the departures have not yet been informed of their fate, the company is anxious not to discuss the issue, said to be part of a review of its business and the quality of service it offers. Sources tell me jobs will be lost in sales and research as well as market-making.

Nutty Christmas

JAPANESE executives at the Nissan factory in Tyne and Wear, anxious to experience a traditional British Christmas, are not sure what to make of an offer in nearby Yorkshire. The Swallow Chase hotel at York is offering a green Christmas. For £330, guests can sleep for five nights in unheated rooms to conserve oil, eat vegetarian dinners, and be treated to a green-clad Santa and plastic Christmas tree. The deal has aroused the suspicion of Friends of the Earth, which is preparing a list of contenders for the "Green com of the year award". Attempts by hotel staff to ban Brazil nuts, in support of the rainforests, are of little use. "They only grow wild so there is no threat," says FOE's

Auditing reforms give say to outsiders

BUSINESSMEN from outside the accountancy profession will for the first time have direct influence over auditing standards and guidelines as a result of reforms agreed by the accountancy institutes.

The Auditing Practices Committee, hitherto responsible to the six member Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies, is to be converted into a largely independent Auditing Practices Board.

The new board will include representatives from business and other interested groups such as financial institutions. Instead of requiring approval from each of the six accountancy bodies, the board will be able to issue auditing standards and guidelines "after full consultations". The APB will also have much greater resources, provided by all the CCAB members.

Mike Lickiss, president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and chairman of the CCAB, said: "These reforms and extra resources will make the APB more authoritative, more accountable and faster on its feet than the APC has been able to be over the past few years." He added that the growing interest in auditing outside the profession had made the time right for radical changes.

The reforms reflect pressure from government for auditors to tighten up standards and take more responsibility. Members should be selected for the new board in time for it to start next April.

Trafalgar House Results for the year to 30th September 1990

	Year to 30 September 1990	Year to 30 September 1989
Operating Profit		
Property and investment	77.4	170.3
Construction and engineering	68.4	57.3
Shipping and hotels	60.5	57.8
	206.3	285.4
Profits before tax	155.7	270.4
Ordinary dividend	18.4p	17.6p
Earnings per share	22.0p	42.8p

- Dividend up 5 per cent to 18.4p.
- Turnover up 7 per cent to record £3.5 billion.
- Developments for sale written down by £95 million.
- Construction and engineering record operating profit of £68 million.
- Shipping and hotels record operating profit of £61 million.
- Profit before taxation £155.7 million after write-down.
- Borrowings of £345 million; gearing reduced to 42 per cent.
- Average cost of borrowing 10 per cent.
- Unutilised committed long term facilities and cash of £700 million.

TRAFALGAR HOUSE
PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

This advertisement has been prepared by Trafalgar House

[illegible]

The prices in this section refer to Monday's trading

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

SPOT AND FORWARD RATES **OTHER STERLING RATES**

THIRD MARKET

28, 1990 to Oct 31, 1990 .
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Squatter camp 'school' in South Africa.

EDUCATION IS LIBERATION.

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Gold, platinum, coal, diamonds?

At Anglo American, South Africa's biggest mineral resource group, we believe that South Africa's most important resource is its people, particularly its children, who today make up 40 per cent of the population. It is a resource which is grossly neglected.

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Which is why Anglo American, for many years, has invested heavily in training and education.

Today we and our associates fund 1,918 students with high school, university and technical college bursaries.

We fund pre-university bridging programmes for students from educationally deprived backgrounds.

Our group also spends more than R200 million a year on skills training for our employees.

Through our Chairman's Fund, we support technical high schools, better teacher training programmes, pre-school and non-racial education.

And we have helped rural communities to build 568 classrooms so that 'school' is more than a patch of

bare earth, and children like these can begin to acquire the education they need to be truly free. Not only to vote but to create wealth for themselves and prosperity for their country.

So that they can become the engineers, the geologists, the technicians and the managers who will help us to develop South Africa's other resources for the next generation.

South Africa will continue to need big private organisations capable of undertaking large and important projects without risk to public funds. Projects that will be the engine of growth for all Southern Africa.

It will need companies like Anglo American, with the vision and the resources to invest in the future.

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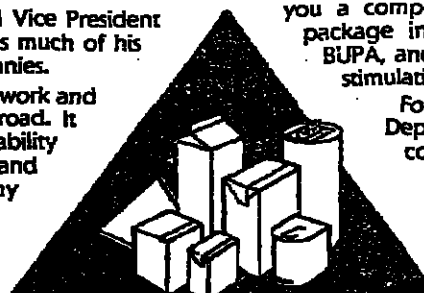
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One-off opportunity to work for world famous Architectural Practice as Assistant Press Officer. Based in riverside, riverside offices, you will conduct guided tours of the building, help prepare for lectures, organise TV & film crews, liaise with the press, assist with research for forthcoming books. As well as having a keen interest in architecture, you will possess first class typing skills, be incredibly well organised and able to work under pressure and to deadlines. Please send your CV to: 071 497 8003

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£17,500

He's a workaholic. He's real PA's don't eat lunch, and you'll be hard pushed to keep up with him! On the plus side - he's a good delegator so you can use your initiative, as well as your good conversational French, litigation experience and audio skills. Ready to take up the gloves and go on a diet...

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071 439 7061 West End

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Mature, versatile, reliable and bright Secretary-plus to adopt small but flourishing Chelsea Advertising Agency. There's room to use your own initiative and make this job important. We promise you it will always be interesting!

Phone Dawn Pilkington on
071-351 7059.

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MEDIA
COMPANY

SECRETARY/
OFFICE
MANAGER

To supervise international travel arrangements, run the office and be secretary to small team of senior executives. No 9 to 5 job. Salary £11,500 p.a.

CV to European Communications Management, 3-5 Leinster Gardens, London, W11 3BD
Tel: 071-727 5752

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JAYCAR

PHARMACO/GDRU

We are the new UK limb of an expanding international clinical research company, one of the largest worldwide, looking for an enthusiastic, hard working secretary to work in a very friendly, busy environment for the Director and Associate Director. Excellent WP/5.1 skills/SH 80 wpm, general computer knowledge and a willingness to get fully involved in a potentially managerial/administrative career, but also running the day to day office. She must be able to organise and prioritise, have a sense of humour, and be part of the small team.

Age 22-35, non smoker.
Salary £17,19,000 + an attractive package.
Please send your CV and covering letter to:

Dr J Shipman
Pharmaco/GDRU
6 Newcomen Street
London Bridge
London SE1 1YR
by Wednesday 12th December

Turning Japanese
£20,000 Package

Vice President of the Japanese Division in large US investment bank needs a secretary with a knowledge of, or the desire to learn, Japanese. You will assist him and his colleagues with composing their correspondence, organising their travel and business meetings and ensuring the smooth administration of this small specialist team. Excellent organisational skills, a flexible attitude and English mother tongue are prerequisites. Age 20-35. Typing 60wpm. Please call Elizabeth Williamson on 071-256 5018.

HOBSTONES

TELEVISION - ARTS -
PUBLISHING - PR - MUSIC

Are you looking for more than just a run of the mill secretarial job? Are you fed up with the dull routine? Whether you are a college leaver or a senior PA, you stay stuck in a rut when you could start afresh with a real challenge in one of our exciting and varied jobs in the media. If you have secretarial skills and thrive in a creative atmosphere, we have the best selection of permanent and temporary vacancies in London. Call us now for further details and friendly advice.

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ASSOCIATES
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Recruitment Consultants

MP (Conservative) needs young Secretary (college leaver accepted). Good typing, shorthand helpful. Age 18-22. £10,000.

PR Company needs 2 super secretaries. Good WP. Lots of client liaison. Age 20s. To £15,000.

Secretarial Selection
071-629 9323

THE TIMES
EDUCATIONAL
SUPPLEMENT

is looking for a
SECRETARY

A lively secretary with excellent shorthand and typing skills is required to work in the books and arts section of the newspaper.

Applicants should have a good general educational background, together with initiative and an interest in education, publishing and arts for young people. Strong organisational skills, tact and a good telephone manner are essential. The position carries a competitive salary, BUPA and 6 weeks' holiday.

Please write with CV to:
The Editor, The TES,
Priory House, St John's Lane,
London EC1M 4BX.

Portfolio
PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share in the daily claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Jarvis	Building	100
2	British (air)	Public Transport	100
3	Telecom	Telecom	100
4	Chemical Instruments	Chemical	100
5	First (air)	Public Transport	100
6	Mitron	Public Transport	100
7	Amalgamated	Public Transport	100
8	Amalgamated (Hendy)	Public Transport	100
9	Amalgamated (Hendy)	Public Transport	100
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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mrs Shona Johnstone, of Over, Cambridgeshire.

BRITISH FUNDS				
No.	Company	Price	Change	%
1	British (air)	100	100	100

SHORTS (Under Five Years)				
No.	Company	Price	Change	%
1	British (air)	100	100	100

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS				
No.	Company	Price	Change	%
1	British (air)	100	100	100

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS				
No.	Company	Price	Change	%
1	British (air)	100	100	100

UNDATED				
No.	Company	Price	Change	%
1	British (air)	100	100	100

INDEX-LINKED				
No.	Company	Price	Change	%
1	British (air)	100	100	100

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP				
No.	Company	Price	Change	%
1	British (air)	100	100	100

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Small markdowns

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 19. Dealings end December 7. 5Contango day December 10. Settlement day December 17.

5Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (an) denotes Alpha Stocks.

(VOLUMES: PAGE 28)

No.	Company	Price	Change	%
1	British (air)	100	100	100
2	British (air)	100	100	100
3	British (air)	100	100	100
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200	Adair	43	124	

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS
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Telex No. 887374 Fax No. 071-258 8501

Opportunity for occasional travel to continental Europe.
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PA/SECRETARY TO MANAGING DIRECTOR**
N.W. LONDON package £15,000-£17,000

GROWING MAJOR INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANY
For this appointment we invite applications from professional secretaries with fast and accurate shorthand and typing skills. Bilingual secretarial abilities, including excellent written and spoken French, will be essential as you will be liaising regularly with HQ in Europe. Experience of working with Directors will be key and PC literacy will be useful. You will be responsible for organising the Managing Director's arrangements and working on your own initiative across a broad range of activities. Initial remuneration is negotiable £15,000-£17,000, interest free season ticket loan, sickness and pension scheme. Applications in strict confidence, under reference BL775/TT to the Managing Director.

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3 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON EC2M 5JF (AND WINDMILL STRIDE OFFICE)
TELEPHONE: 071-638 9987 OR 071-588 3588. TELEX: 887374. FAX: 071-258 8501.

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£19,000 plus BMW!
Our client requires a well presented, articulate and cheerful PA to work with the proprietor of this successful export company. French, Spanish and German are needed and Italian would also be useful.
Based in the City, you will get out and about, driving to other Company branches (30 mins from London) and you will also travel to Europe on a regular basis.
An excellent position for an linguist with secretarial skills who is seeking real involvement.
Age 30+.
CALL OR FAX YOUR CV IMMEDIATELY!

International Secretaries
174 New Bond Street, London W1P 9PB
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(Fax: 071-491 2875)
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£17,000 PKG
An exciting opportunity for an Italian Secretary to assist the Managing Director of a leading Italian company. The role involves a wide range of administrative duties, including travel arrangements, correspondence and general office management. The successful candidate will be required to speak and write Italian fluently and to have excellent organisational skills.
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Vice President of a major German company is seeking a German speaking PA to assist with a wide range of administrative duties. The role involves a high level of responsibility and requires excellent organisational and communication skills.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR RESEARCH - £14,500
A leading research organisation is seeking an Assistant Director of Research. The role involves a wide range of research and administrative duties, including the management of research projects and the coordination of research teams.
SPANISH ADMINISTRATOR - £12,000
A leading Spanish company is seeking a Spanish speaking Administrator. The role involves a wide range of administrative duties, including the management of office operations and the coordination of staff.
GERMAN TEMP TO PERM - £12,000
A leading German company is seeking a German speaking Temp to Perm Secretary. The role involves a wide range of administrative duties, including the management of office operations and the coordination of staff.
SPANISH IN CHARGE - £12,000 + EXCEL. BENEF.
A leading Spanish company is seeking a Spanish speaking In Charge. The role involves a wide range of administrative duties, including the management of office operations and the coordination of staff.
FRENCH RECEPTIONIST - £12,000
A leading French company is seeking a French speaking Receptionist. The role involves a wide range of administrative duties, including the management of office operations and the coordination of staff.

Boyer Bilingual
071 287 6060

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Prestige Personnel

Secretarial Recruitment Consultants
TEMPORARY SECRETARIES
I am looking for experienced, competent, senior temporary secretaries who expect to earn top rates. If you meet these requirements please ring me, Vienne Richards, on 071 683 5135 or 071 938 3486 to arrange an interview.

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

Either salary circa £16k or self employed up to £10 p.h.
Location: Old Bailey/St Pauls
3 middle-aged Chartered Surveyors require replacement for their existing secretary who is off globe-travelling. Pleasant work, most of the time in the office, with occasional travel to property or law - short/medium/long term.
Please fax brief CV to 071 236 5896 or telephone 071 236 1851

Tout de Suite £21,000 pkg

Leading US investment bank are looking for a first-class bilingual secretary to work at Director level. In an increasingly busy role, your fluent French and good organisational skills will be in demand immediately. You will be arranging overseas client meetings, planning itineraries and generally keeping track of your boss who will be attracting new European business. Spanish would also be useful. Skills: 90/65/WP. Age 25-35. Please telephone Caroline Smith on 071-588 3535.

Crone Corkill Multilingual

LANGUAGE RECRUITMENT SERVICES LTD
FRENCH (AND SPANISH) MARKETING Bilingual PA/Sec (FMS 5/1/91) to assist dynamic Marketing Director of a leading City Co. East of London to get involved, visit clients, arrange travel & conferences etc. Post, at some times must be confident, computer literate, aged 22+. To ERM + best salary to negotiate. £25-30k.
GERMAN (FRENCH AND) SALES Bilingual PA/Sec to assist MD of a City Co. Based in London & Germany. To assist with sales, customer care & general office duties. Must be confident, computer literate, aged 22+. To ERM + best salary to negotiate. £25-30k.
GERMAN PA IN BUCKINGHAM PA/Sec to assist MD of a City Co. Based in London & Germany. To assist with sales, customer care & general office duties. Must be confident, computer literate, aged 22+. To ERM + best salary to negotiate. £25-30k.

LANGUAGE RECRUITMENT SERVICES LTD
TELEPHONE: 071-287 0424 FAX: 072-437 4141
54-62 REGENT STREET, LONDON W1R 5PJ

The Language Specialists

ITALIAN Speaking male sec. 30-35, City, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Turkish, Urdu, Vietnamese, Yiddish, Zulu. £12,000 + mortgage worth another £10,000. Call 071-377 2600. Secretaries Plus - The Recruitment Consultants.
GERMAN Speaking female sec. 30-35, City, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Turkish, Urdu, Vietnamese, Yiddish, Zulu. £12,000 + mortgage worth another £10,000. Call 071-377 2600. Secretaries Plus - The Recruitment Consultants.
FRENCH Speaking male sec. 30-35, City, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Turkish, Urdu, Vietnamese, Yiddish, Zulu. £12,000 + mortgage worth another £10,000. Call 071-377 2600. Secretaries Plus - The Recruitment Consultants.
SPANISH Speaking female sec. 30-35, City, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Turkish, Urdu, Vietnamese, Yiddish, Zulu. £12,000 + mortgage worth another £10,000. Call 071-377 2600. Secretaries Plus - The Recruitment Consultants.

MERROW EMPLOYMENT AGENCY
071-499 3939
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Regional regeneration

While the commercial property market in London suffers from the effects of the economic recession, there are more optimistic noises from Manchester and Bristol. There is also a warning. The market may be flat at the moment, but a lack of action or commitment now could lead to future shortages of space.

This is the message from the Bristol-based property consultant J.P. Sturge, which appears in its annual review, *Property 1991*, that the market in the south and west could see shortages of some types of property in 1992, unless developers are able to return to the market now.

David Marsh, the senior partner, points out that despite today's lack of investment in new development there is still demand from potential occupiers, leading to reduced stock and shortages, particularly in the city centre offices and industrial market.

This is the case in Bristol, where the general economic outlook led many organisations to delay proposed moves to the city, despite almost record numbers of enquiries to the company's local office. If the usual take-up of around 600,000 sq ft a year were restored during 1991, there could be a shortage of self-contained buildings.

"Developers must plan now to meet the demands of two years' time," Mr Marsh says. "Although funding is difficult

Despite a property slump in the southeast, there is life in the regions and a threat of a future shortage of new construction.

Christopher

Warman reports

at present, 1991 will be the time to pick up bargains, with land values lower and refurbishment opportunities at bargain-basement levels."

He believes the shortages will start to be recognised towards the middle of next year, and that economic and political factors, including the timing of the next general election, will influence the speed and scale of the return of confidence in the market.

In Greater Manchester, research conducted by Chesterton, the international property consultant, predicts a substantial increase in office space, with about three million sq ft under construction, but says this is equivalent to only two years' supply at the letting rate of the past 12 months.

In the city centre, 760,000



The Manchester scheme for Britannic Assurance

sq ft of offices are under construction, but in the traditional core only 25,000 sq ft will become available next year, leaving a continuing demand for high specification offices with large floors.

Chesterton's *Manchester Business Space Review 1990-91* reports that office demand has remained buoyant and lettings in the past year have exceeded 500,000 sq ft. The non-banking financial and insurance sectors dominated this market, accounting for 30.5 per cent and 24.1 per cent of take-up respectively.

Office availability has risen slightly from 5 per cent a year ago to 6.3 per cent, but only 156,000 sq ft of the total 884,000 sq ft is in the most desirable area.

Britannic Assurance's new

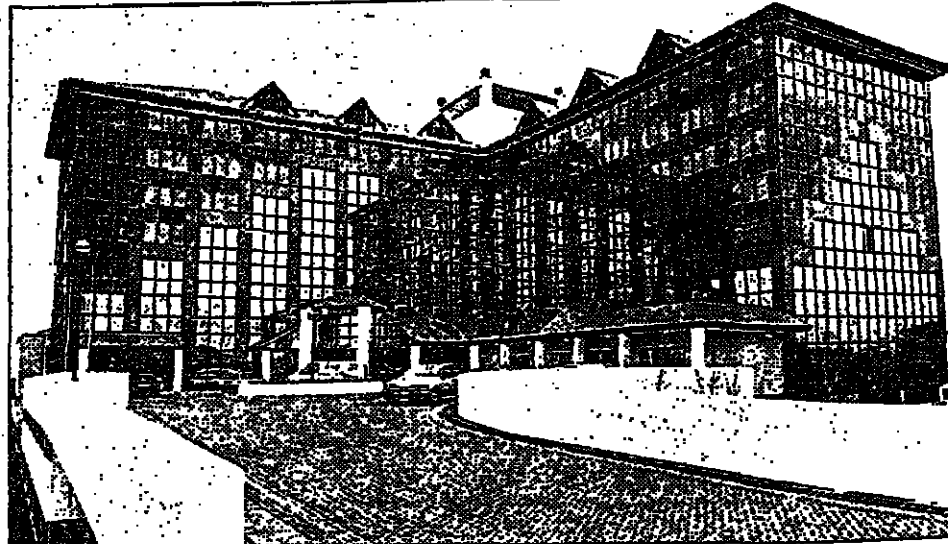
20,000 sq ft office development in Fountain Street, which was topped out last month, is the only building at present under construction in Manchester's prime financial centre. The building, replacing a property built in 1939 by the company, has attracted considerable interest because of the shortage of new accommodation in this area. The agent, Lambert Smith Hampton, is seeking a rent of about £20 per sq ft.

Chesterton says rental growth for prime offices in the city centre is likely to be boosted in 1991 by a continuation of the pre-letting activity witnessed in the past two years. Rents have risen to £15.50 per sq ft, but pre-lets on buildings under construction have achieved £18.50 and, Chesterton predicts, will reach £20 by the end of this year.

Mike Denham, the partner in charge of Chesterton's Manchester office, says the report confirms the continued lack of supply of high-quality offices in the heart of the city and the market's inability to satisfy demand.

He says: "The high level of take-up for new schemes in the core area will force unsatisfied demand towards Salford Quays, now perceived by many as a viable alternative to the city-centre fringe locations."

What the report also shows is that even in difficult times there is still development potential, for not all property markets are oversupplied.



The Copthorne Hotel, at junction 6 of the M4 near London's Heathrow airport, has been completed on target despite a delayed start. Zakheim Construction (UK), the builder, began work in July last year after a three-week legal hold-up, and handed over the £25 million, 220-room building to the Copthorne Hotels company, a subsidiary of

Aer Lingus, last Thursday. The hotel was opened on Saturday ahead of schedule and ready for the Christmas trade. Dina Nikola, the Zakheim managing director, says: "The achievement was particularly good because of all the disciplines involved. The installing of furniture, electricals, kitchen equipment and other items all had to be co-ordinated."

Exposed — the registry secrets

AFTER more than 100 years of secrecy, the Land Registry has opened its doors this week to permit members of the public to make general ownership enquiries. To coincide with the change, Property Intelligence and ICC Legal Services have announced the launch of a joint venture search service providing ownership and planning information on any site or property in England and Wales.

The new service will allow the 300 organisations

subscribing to Property Intelligence's Focus databases to request Land Registry searches through their own Focus link, bypassing the need for correspondence with, or a personal visit to, the relevant district land registry or local authority.

Daniel Wilson, of Property Intelligence, says that this can save an enormous amount of time. The relevant records for Hounslow borough, for example, are held in Swansea, and those for Greenwich are at Tetford, Shropshire.

Under the joint venture, the companies will prepare two reports within 48 hours.

The first, an ownership report, includes site and property owner details, title status, leasehold details and mortgages and charges register.

The second, a planning report, offers a general planning history of the site or property, previous and current planning applications, the borough development plan, prevailing council policies and copies of planning consents. Each costs £55 plus VAT.

IN THE MARKET

Tech city for new Germany

A British-led consortium has won approval for plans for a central European technology city on a 3,000-acre site near Magdeburg, Germany, in the Berlin-Hannover corridor. The project aims to attract new technology industries and multinational firms. The consortium was formed by Christopher Turner, the chief executive of Britain's Technology Consulting International, and is supported by the Irish telecommunications, aviation and electricity industries.

Knowle Hill Park is a 50-acre estate overlooking the green belt at Cobham, Surrey, where Octagon Developments is constructing a new corporate headquarters. The grounds have a pitch-and-putt golf course, and water gardens and lakes. The offices are designed in two separate squares and will provide 41,000 sq ft of space and a helicopter pad for flying visits. Subcontractors are Chinnocks and Fuller Palmer, the joint agents, are seeking more than £18 million or an annual rental of £1.3 million.

Taylor Woodrow Property Company is jointly developing with Mitsui Construction Company, the Japanese contractor, a £5.5 million office scheme in Gray's Inn Road, central London. Work has begun on a 28,000 sq ft air-conditioned building next to the Independent Television News centre and is expected to be ready for letting in November 1991.

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erty, the "City Neues Berlin", class and shape. Its location is at the top address in Berlin: on the Friedrichstrasse in the city centre between the Brandenburger Tor, Potsdamer Platz, Leipziger Strasse, the Platz der Akademie and Unter den Linden. It's as if the Champs-Élysées, Regent Street, Via Veneto and Fifth Avenue were the godparents.

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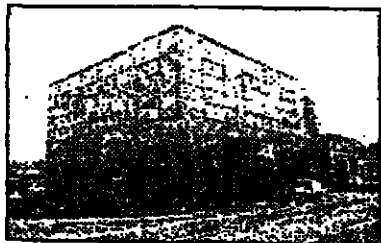
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Gower is injured as Lamb's team takes the field with serious intent but establishes only its mediocrity

Dismal England at rock bottom

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
CANBERRA

GIVEN a setting as colourful as Arundel and an occasion touched by the rich and famous, England contrived to turn in another destitute day's performance here yesterday. Losing to the Prime Minister's XI was no disgrace. But the way in which it happened confirmed the darkest suspicions about the state of this side.

Before the match began, Micky Stewart, the team manager, was at pains to point out that the result was not as important as the level of performance. "To lose a game like this in the right circumstances is not the end of the world," he said. By last night, Stewart was beyond a pretence that the circumstances had been right or that the performance had had anything to redeem it.

In brief, England lost by 31 runs in a team containing only one active Test player, the captain, Allan Border. On a picnic and deckchair day at the charming Manuka Oval, Bob Hawke returned from Parliament House, and a sombre speech on the Gulf, to find his mood lightened by the eclipse of a team which has forgotten how to win and mislaid its sense of method and purpose.

If one takes this game at face value, and England's management left no one in any doubt that it was to be approached seriously, then the immediate future is depressing for them. At times they looked bereft of direction and at others of brainpower. They were also, incidentally, short on luck, Gower joining the injury list with a cracked and bruised right thumb.

All this might change, or be changed, but what cannot be altered is the raw material and, more than anything, England looked a team decorated with wall-to-wall mediocrity.

The players capable of rising above such ordinariness, like Lamb, Smith and Gower, seem to have been dragged down to the same level. Australians grow bored easily when their sport is one-sided and if there is not a profound reform within the touring side, and soon, this tour could die through lack of interest.

In the 1950s, when Sir Robert Menzies held the honour, the Prime Minister's matches were played in a more festive spirit. Distinguished batsmen could expect leniency from bowlers and umpires,



Down down under: Lamb, the England captain, sinks to his knees as failure again descends on the touring party in Canberra yesterday

and the Menzies team always included retired stars. Bradman was 54 when he played in 1963. Hassett and O'Reilly both played when in their late forties. There is a case for saying the day was better served that way, and that yesterday's crowd would prefer to have seen, perhaps, the Chappell brothers and Rod Marsh in action than some promising but fairly anonymous talent.

Mr Hawke, however, collaborates with the Australian selectors, who use this game for their own ends and have their coach, Bob Simpson, on hand to assess how the emerging talents cope. For them, it is a significant day, though perhaps not as significant as it was for Allan Lamb and his players.

No one is under greater strain than Lamb, and no one is betraying it more visibly. Gone is the buccaneering banter which always identified him as such a good, if exhausting, lieutenant. Carrying the

can for a losing team is no laughing matter and Lamb has neither the leadership experience nor, it would seem, the expertise to carry it off.

His first arguable decision yesterday was to put the opposition in to bat. True, there had been rain on Monday and the outfield was wet and slow, but the pitch was never likely to be better than sluggish all day and the urgent need was to give the batsmen a chance to restore morale with a big score.

Selection was also contentious. In leaving out Hugh Morris, there was at least a consistency of thought with last week's assertion that he is here only as cover for Gooch, but the opportunities to give him match practice in case he is needed at Christmas are very few. Releasing Lewis, the team's one all-rounder, to play in a charity match in Melbourne, also seemed misguided.

Fraser and Bicknell rapidly reduced the Hawke team to 48

for three, before Bevan and Lehmann put together a stand of 56. It was during this that England's most encouraging feature of the day.

Bowling almost entirely at left-handers, which he would not do by choice, Tufnell gave England's bowling a challenging variety which has been absent too long. His three wickets were hard-earned and, with Hemmings still thought only an even-money bet to be available for the weekend's two World Series Cup games, Tufnell's chances of inclusion have improved.

In the closing overs, England's discipline in the field degenerated once more and 34 came from the last three. This had been one of the issues to anger the management against New Zealand last Saturday. "We must never do this again," had been the theme of the sermon. Already, it has been ignored. The bowling was unimpressive, the fielding occasionally slapdash and the

general air desultory. Hence, for the second time in two games, England failed to complete 50 overs in three-and-a-half hours.

Nevertheless, they had 48 overs to pursue a target of 227 and it should not have been taking once John Morris, striking the ball beautifully, and Larkins had launched the innings with 57 in 12 overs.

Smith then volunteered for the first of two particularly unintelligent run-outs, Stewart being the second culprit, and with Larkins, reprieved by an astonishing drop at cover when 12, out immediately after tea, England were suddenly the outsiders.

Gower had returned from hospital after x-rays on the thumb, injured when dropping a ferocious cut from Border, but he did not bat until No. 8 and by then the team was all but lost. McDermott's three wickets in two overs left Gower no

choice but to play out time, in obvious pain and in company with the slogging Malcolm.

PRIME MINISTER'S XI	
M W McPherson	2
R J Venter	2
T H Bayles	22
M G Bevan	22
A R Border	22
R J Tucker	12
M F Bicknell	12
C J McDermott	36
G H Robertson	0
Extras (8.3 w, 1.5 b)	0
Total (8 wks, 48 overs)	226

P Ruffell did not bat.

ENGLAND XI	
J E Morris	30
M Larkins	34
R A Smith	11
A J Lamb	27
A J Stewart	0
G C Small	25
M F Bicknell	16
D E Maltby	11
Extras (2.5 b, 7.7 w)	21
Total (8 wks, 48 overs)	155

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-43, 3-48, 4-104, 5-121, 6-144, 7-164, 8-226. BOWLING: Fraser 9-1-32-2; Malcolm 9-0-51-0; Bicknell 10-0-42-2; Small 10-0-58-1; Tufnell 10-0-40-3.

New clampdown by TCCB on players' conduct

By RICHARD STREETON

CONCERNED by the continuing deterioration of behaviour in the game, the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) is to issue a stringent new directive on discipline. For the first time the board plans to hit specific, unacceptable offences and everybody "inside the game", including county committee men and officials, will have to sign their agreement to abide by the directive.

Durham's election as a first-class county and a proposal to leave pitches uncovered are other items on one of most significant agendas for many years when the TCCB meets at Lord's today and tomorrow. No announcements will be made by the board until tomorrow afternoon.

Until recently, administrators were able to leave matters of behaviour and discipline to the broad generalizations in the laws. These touch on fair and unfair play and actions that "might bring the game into disrepute". Just as the International Cricket Council (ICC) has felt forced to plan the introduction of a code of conduct for Test matches, so the TCCB has decided that it is necessary to overhaul its own regulations on behaviour.

Carefully vetted by the TCCB's legal advisers, the directive starts by insisting that players should conduct themselves "fairly and properly" on the field and in any part of a cricket ground. It goes on to forbid any verbal or physical abuse, or hostility, towards any other player, or member of the public. Any disputing of an umpire's decision, either verbally or by reacting in a disapproving manner, inevitably, is listed as an offence.

The Australian phrase "sledging" makes its first appearance in an official TCCB document in the section that forbids abusive language or other verbal exchanges aimed at distracting a batsman. Also banned are all hand signals, not only dangerous gestures but also the latest trend for bowlers to thumb directions towards the pavilion when they take a batsman's wicket.

Among matters reaffirmed,

the directive says that players must comply with the board's drug testing regulations and that no "participant in the game" should act in any way prejudicial to the interests of cricket. The TCCB introduced sporadic drug tests several years ago to follow the lead given in other British sports.

Infringements under the proposed directive will be dealt under existing procedures, with the county concerned. First adjudicating on offenders, the board retains the right to increase any penalties imposed.

However said, the necessity for the board to spell out the various offences of the directive will be welcomed by most people in the game, which has always jealously guarded its traditional reputation for good conduct. By including members of county committees in the jurisdiction, the board has taken overdue steps to close the door on statements and articles, which are often inflammatory and ill-timed.

Meanwhile, Durham are not expected to have any difficulty in mustering the two-thirds majority needed from the 19 delegates to secure their promotion to first-class status for the 1992 season. Questions, however, are being asked about the strength of their proposed playing staff.

Overall, though, there is an appreciation that both cricket and the northeast will benefit from electing Durham and any reservations are expected to be laid aside. Four counties have proposed pitches should be left uncovered in an effort to redress the balance between bat and ball. Those in favour also argue that batsman techniques would be improved and the greater entertainment would be provided for spectators.

The proposal could fail, however, following opposition from the board's England and cricket committees, as well as several county captains. The TCCB is also expected to consider proposals for bowlers to thumb directions towards the pavilion when they take a batsman's wicket.

Cook continues to plunder the runs

OVERSEAS CRICKET BY SIMON WILDE

JIMMY Cook, who scored almost 4,000 runs in all county matches for Somerset last summer, has yet to quench his thirst for runs. A superbly paced unbeaten innings of 128, his fourth century of the South African season, paved the way for Transvaal's passage into the Nissani Shield final.

Cook's mastery performance came in the first leg of the semi-final against Orange Free State. Transvaal, set a stiff target of 248 in their 55 overs, slipped to 248 for three before Cook and Steve Smith, the Australian, who made an unbeaten 81, saw off the remaining runs. Transvaal won the second leg by 58 runs. They meet Eastern Province in the final at Port Elizabeth on December 15.

New Zealand's attempts to copy some of the innovations of the Nissani Shield led to an interesting conclusion to the one-day trial match between Canterbury and Auckland at Christchurch. Martin Pringle, of Auckland, needed to hit the last ball for ten (a six in orthodox cricket). He was already on his third visit to the crease, having been substituted once and dismissed once. He could manage only a two. The last ball was bowled by Chris Cairns, the Test all-rounder, who had been out of

the game for almost a year with a stress fracture of the back.

Saeed Anwar, the Pakistan left-handed batsman, who had bagged a pair in his first Test, at Faisalabad, a few days earlier, gave a brilliant exhibition of strokeplay in the Patron's Trophy one-day final at Lahore Gymkhana. His unbeaten 126 against Habib Bank, which included 15 fours and four sixes, carried the Agricultural Development Bank of Pakistan (ADB) to their target of 191 off 40 overs with nine wickets and 79 balls to spare.

On the fifth and final day of the first-class final of the Patron's Trophy in Karachi today, United Bank need to score 406 to prevent AFB from winning again. United Bank's leading scorer in the first innings was the veteran Shafiq Ahmed, a member of Pakistan's 1974 team to tour England.

Victory continues to demonstrate that the South African team is the most improved state team. At Hobart over the weekend, they beat Tasmania on first innings. Three recent arrivals to Victoria made an impression. The two Durban men South Australia, Berry and Larmann, and the unbeaten 98 and a pair of half-centuries, respectively, while Craig White, the Yorkshire all-rounder, took two wickets.

Imran turns to older hands to foil West Indies

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK
IN LAHORE

THERE is a very different feel in the air on the eve of the third and deciding Test match between Pakistan and West Indies, which starts here tomorrow, than there was before the series began in Karachi three weeks ago. The conviction which pervaded the Pakistan camp has been replaced by doubt. With the West Indians, it is the other way round.

The transformation occurred in Faisalabad, where in half an hour West Indies turned impending defeat into imminent victory. In the ten days since then they have had the benefit of a game in Saragoda to occupy them. All the Pakistanis have done is to sweat and fret in

Laure, and rue a great opportunity missed. Not only that, further setbacks have befallen them.

Javed Miandad, their brightest star, has been missing with stomach trouble, brought on, I dare say, by a shortage of runs. The question now is whether he can bring himself to play. Ijaz Ahmed, whose experience was going to be called on, has been hit in the face at the nets and put out of contention.

Yesterday no two people agreed what should be done for the best. There existed, quite simply, a crisis of confidence.

Perhaps the greatest compliment paid to the West Indians these days is the lengths to which their hosts will go to take the sting out of their fast

bowlers. The trouble is that this is more easily planned than done. The Australians have managed it twice at Sydney and the Indians once at Madras, the West Indians being made, each time, to pay for their lack of spin.

Now Pakistan are trying it, and whereas they were successful in the first Test they failed in the second. The pitch for tomorrow will have as much life in it as a piece of plasticine. That, anyway, is the intention. Harry Blair, Australian groundsman here to advise on the preparation of "good cricket pitches", is preaching to the seemingly attentive but actually unconvertible.

Although, in Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, Pakistan

have as good a pair of opening bowlers as they are ever likely to, they are still sufficiently in awe of Marshall, Walsh, Ambrose and Bishop not to fancy their chances of winning a slugging match. They are hoping instead that the swing, as distinct from the speed, of Wasim and Waqar, supported by more authentic spin than West Indies possess, will do the trick. It is the idea that the ball should turn square.

Shameless though this may be, it undoubtedly makes for more interesting cricket than watching one side bat for two and a half days before the other does the same. This still happens, in fact, when the Indians are here, for fear of their being given the slightest chance of

winning a Test match. Pakistan 699 for five in reply to India's 509 were the final scores on the two sides met on this ground a year ago. In the next few days a total of 300 could prove a useful one.

Even so, I am not at all sure that Pakistan have got things right. If Abdul Qadir were in his place, he would be a better spinner. But he is not, although he will probably play. The other spinners in the reckoning - Mushtaq Ahmed (leg breaks), Akram Raza (off breaks) and Nadim Ghauri (left-arm orthodox) - have played only five Test matches between them and shared six wickets at a cost of 68 runs apiece. Having pushed his luck by going into the second Test match with five virtual

newcomers to Test cricket, including two in the first three in the batting order, Imran, whose word usually prevails, is looking again to older hands.

West Indies, on the other hand, have worked out what is required of them, as professionals should. Brian Lara, a left-hander who has just made 139 in Saragoda, wins a first cap. Best being injured, In Trinidad in March Lara scored 134 against Graham Gooch's side, and innings of 111, 6 and 7 in the first two Tests suggested that Best, even if, might not have held his place.

I rather hope Pakistan win. Honourably achieved, it would be the best long-term result for Test cricket, though it no longer looks a highly likely one.

DRUGS IN SPORT

Woithe names the organisers of drugs ring

BERLIN (AFP) - East German sports figures were paid hard currency for taking drugs, according to the former Olympic swimmer, Joerg Woithe. Woithe, the Olympic 100 metres freestyle gold medal winner in Moscow in 1980 and world champion two years later, says in an interview with *Sportecho*, published yesterday, that he turned down an offer to take drugs to enable him to swim not only the 50 metres, but the 100 and 200 as well, at the Seoul Olympics.

"They promised me foreign currency if I accepted," he said. But he refused and did not take part in Seoul. Woithe names the heads of former East Germany's sports federation, Manfred Ewald and Horst Roder, as organisers of the drugs ring. The former East German currency was not convertible into Western money and could not be used to buy Western consumer goods.

Another top swimmer, Ralf Hannemann, who recently failed to reach the qualifying standard for next year's world championships in Perth, Australia, has also admitted using drugs.

He told the *Berliner Kurier*: "Yes, I took drugs. I will admit to having experimented with several different substances because I wanted to benefit from the privileges of a champion, like a good apartment, a car and the chance to study."

On Monday, the German swimming coach, Jochen Spilker, resigned after being accused of organising drug-taking by his team members. Spilker, who was responsible for the national women's 400 metres squad, said in a letter to the national federation he was prepared to answer allegations made against him.

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

No. 1 status under threat

By JANE WYATT

THERE are not many sports of which the British can say "we are the best in the world". Water skiing by disabled people is one of them. The claim has to be qualified, however, by "at the moment", for although the idea of international competition for disabled water skiers emerged in this country, there are many more water skiers in places like the United States and Australia.

Britain held the first world water skiing for the disabled championships in 1987 and swept the board, an achievement equalled in the 1989 championships in Australia.

Now the sport is being taken seriously abroad and Britons will be hard-pressed to maintain their positions. Denise Smith, from Farnborough, a quadriplegic who uses a sit-ski and is the best in her class in the world, notes that there were only six seated skiers in this year's British national championships compared to 70

in the American equivalent.

Smith trains and teaches at Heron Lake, near Staines, the headquarters of the British Disabled Water Ski Association (BDWA). The association has around 200 members who enjoy special insurance which enables them to enter competitions. Heron Lake boasts a new clubhouse and is a centre of excellence for the sport, where recruits can try water skiing in safe conditions with proper instruction.

"Our aim is to build confidence," Smith said. "Instructors and students are always one to one. We give them a lot of physical support, so that they stay up the first time they try which means they don't get demoralised. It's very important that they trust their instructor because they are faced with a hostile environment."

Once people have picked up the basics, they often continue

to ski with their local able-bodied club.

At Heron Lake no disability is seen as a barrier. "To take someone with very severe disabilities and get them water skiing is to provide them with exhilaration beyond their wildest imagining," Smith said.

"We concentrate on technique, not power, to overcome problems of balance." The BDWA keeps a large cache of specialist equipment so skiers with no limbs, for example, can use the hydro slide, an adapted trick ski, with an automatic release rope system.

Money, as always, is the bugbear of the BDWA. The £70,000 for the newly completed clubhouse was raised through all-night water skiing sessions. Smith herself skied across the channel. More money is needed to train and send the national squad to the United States to compete in next year's world championships.

BRIDGE

Competition for Killarney beginning to hot up

By ALBERT DORMER

SIX places in Britain's open team for the European championships in Killarney will be decided between Christmas and the new year. The women's squad is expected to be settled at the same time. The struggle for these places is of increasing intensity.

Under new World Bridge Federation rules, four teams from each Killarney series are due to go through to the Bermuda Bowl open event and the Venice Cup women's event in Yokohama, more than two years after Europe's previous quail.

Britain expected to do well in Killarney, the incentive to gain selection is strong.

Two British tournaments just played suggest that there will be few automatic choices. In the first heat of the national women's teams at Newbury, the favourites limped to victory.

The Sandra Landy team (Handley, Smith, Dunstan and Unwin), all internationals, beat Christine Duckworth (Hayes, Sutcliffe and Tick), by 63 international match points to 41, after trailing to the three-quarter mark and then needing a slam on a finesse to draw ahead.

Landy is the chairman of the British Bridge League (BBL) selection committee for both series.

This was an impressive performance by the losers, who had vanquished a group of European championship hopefuls, captained by Dee Evans, in the semi-final.

The second heat of the national women's teams is at Harrogate this weekend, with a play-off between the two winners early in the new year.

The BBL selectors can preen themselves over the Mr Bridge all-star cash-prize event at the Young Chelsea club. It was won

REAL TENNIS

Johnson plots subtle path to last eight

DAVID Johnson, the home professional, provided a subtle tactical display as he defeated the stylish Andrew Page to reach the quarter-finals of the George Wimpey British Open championship at the Queen's Club, London, yesterday (Sally Jones).

Page, who had earlier played some outstanding tennis to put out Nick Wood, the Hampton Court assistant professional, failed to kill the ball effectively against the feet-footed Johnson, aged 40, whose retrieving and angled groundstrokes maintained a constant pressure.

Johnson now meets Lachlan Deuchar, the favourite and world No. 1, who had to work harder than expected for his straight sets victory against John Ward, the 50-year-old qualifier.

RESULTS (all unless stated): First round: A Page 6-4, 6-5, 3-6, 6-5, 6-2, 6-0; D Johnson 6-4, 6-2, 6-0.

By Irving Rose and Victor Silverstone, comfortably ahead of Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson, the only pair in either selection for Killarney.

Only a little earlier, the selectors added Rose and Silverstone, together with John Robson and Peter Crouch, to the short list for the trials.

Forrester and Robson can be satisfied with their performance, yesterday, when they were confirmed as a challenger to the Yorkshireman in a 3,000 metres grass track event in Durham on December 29. Elliott won the equivalent race last year, from

ATHLETICS

Charity pay-outs vie with unease

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ALTHOUGH one of its longest-serving board members may resign through disenchantment with the way the London Marathon is managed, money should speak louder than words at a meeting of governors today. Grants by the marathon to deserving causes are approaching the £1 million mark.

Illyd Harrington, whose name was associated with the marathon ever before those of Igoe Simonsen and Dick Brasher, the first winners, said yesterday that he was considering his position on the board. "I don't think I can stay much longer with something which now reflects Wall Street more than ancient Greece," Harrington, a former leader of the Greater London Council, said.

"I am worried by the way it is run," Harrington said. "It seems to have become a personal piece of property of Brasher and Disley." Chris Brasher, the race director, and John Disley, his co-founder, have elevated the marathon to one of the best in the world and made it the modern classic of the British sporting calendar.

Elliott faces his old foe

PETER Elliott has been provided with an opportunity to avenge his European championship defeat by the 1,500 metres gold medal winner, Jens Peter Herold, of East Germany. Herold, the man who won the blue ribbon title in Split while Elliott was embroiled in controversy, was yesterday confirmed as a challenger to the Yorkshireman in a 3,000 metres grass track event in Durham on December 29. Elliott won the equivalent race last year, from

BOWLS

Miller makes Robbison toil for victory

By DAVID RHYS JONES

AS EXPECTED, Graham Robertson, of East Lothian, reached the final of the CIS Scottish indoor singles championship at Cambridge yesterday, though he had to work hard to shake off the attentions of David Miller, age 33, a challenger from Cumberland.

Robertson, the only Scotsman to have won both the indoor and outdoor British singles titles, last week came through a world-class field to win the Hong Kong Classic pairs and singles championships. His dour approach befits a tax inspector and is not calculated to make him the most exciting competitor, but he has developed into one of the most consistent players in the world.

Miller, who was a reserve for Scotland's outdoor team in July, was slow to start, but tested more experienced opponent in the second set. Ultimately, however, it was Robertson's ability to dictate the game through the accurate positioning of his opening deliveries that made the difference, and he got home, 7-2, 7-4.

After a workmanlike win in the first set, Grant Knox, a gold medal winner in the 1986 Commonwealth Games, lost the initiative and dropped the second set in three ends to Blantyre's Jim McCann, who was appearing in his first national semi-final.

Having pulled himself together and established a 6-3 lead in the deciding set, he dropped four successive singles to McCann, whose play was notable more for gusto than finesse.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: G Robertson (East Lothian) 6-3 D Miller (Cumbria); G-2, 7-4; J McCann (Blantyre) 6-3 G Knox (West Lothian); 4-7, 7-6.

Precedent for Aga Khan's decision

THE announcement yesterday that the Aga Khan, one of the most successful owners of racehorses in the world, is to end his involvement in British racing brings to an end an era that opened in 1921.

During much of those 70 years the name Aga Khan has been synonymous not only with glittering success on the turf but with the international social scene. Prince Aly Khan, the father of the present Aga Khan, was for a time married to the film star Rita Hayworth.

While the present Aga Khan's decision may not be irrevocable it carries a loud echo of one made by his grandfather, who took leave of Newmarket for Chantilly back in 1952 in pursuit of greater prize-money.

The late Aga Khan (1877-1957) began racing in England in 1922 with Dick Dawson at Whatcombe. He was the son of Aly Khan, a Persian nobleman, who fled his country during a time of civil war to settle in Bombay with a retinue of 1,000 relations and servants.

Richard Onslow traces the development of a racing dynasty built on sound business principles

The princely title of Highness was conferred upon him by the British Raj. By 1923, the Aga had discovered the legendary grey filly, Mumtaz Mahal, "The Flying Mumtaz", whose phenomenal speed was to be the foundation of a dynasty. She was the sensation of the season and won the Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot in a canter.

The Aga Khan won 17 British classics, including five Derbys, the first of them with Blenheim in 1930. He frequently had more than one horse in the Derby, and indeed Blenheim's challenge was supplemented by Ruston Pasha. As Blenheim struck the front he heard to murmur: "Come on

Ruston Pasha", but it was Blenheim who carried the day.

A little over a year later, the Aga quarrelled bitterly with Dick Dawson and after an almost public row between them the horses went to Frank Butters at Fitzroy House, Newmarket. Butters trained the Aga Khan's brilliant and unbeaten colt Barham to complete the Triple Crown of the 2,000 Guineas, Derby and St Leger in 1935.

The following year, the Aga Khan ran Taj Akbar, the second favourite, ridden by Gordon Richards, Mahmood, a great grandson of Mumtaz Mahal and Bala Hissar in the Derby. Brilliantly ridden by Charlie Smirke, Mahmood beat Taj Akbar into second place. A few weeks later, the Aga sold Mahmood's sire, Blenheim, to the United States for \$45,000.

With the outbreak of war in 1939, his highness retired to neutral Switzerland. To obviate the possibility of his remaining Derby winners becoming victims of air raids, he sold his remaining Derby winners to the United States,

Barham for £40,000 and Mahmood for £20,000, thereby arousing the fury of British breeders, who were denied their services and viewed their disposal as a serious blow to the bloodstock industry in this country.

His bloodstock dealings were governed by a fundamental belief that his operations had to be run on business rather than sporting lines and that all his horses were for sale at the right price. Indeed, the Aga Khan, for all his enormous wealth, was never careless with money. A keen golfer, he would give serious consideration as to whether to up his caddy two shillings (10p) or half a crown (12 1/2p).

After the war the Aga resumed racing again in England on a large scale, while having five studs in Ireland and others in France. During May 1948, he paid about £15,000 for a half-share in the French-trained colt My Love, who carried his colours successfully in the Derby three weeks later.

The Aga Khan won his fifth Derby with Tulyar, ridden by

Smirke and trained by Frank Butters's successor, Marcus Marsh, in 1952. Even the triumphs of Tulyar did not persuade the Aga Khan to reconsider his decision to concentrate his racing interests in France.

Even though he was leading owner in England for the thirteenth time in 1952 he took all his horses away from Marcus Marsh at the end of the season. Tulyar was sold to the Irish National Stud for £250,000 and three years later he went to the United States.

The Aga Khan, who was married four times, died in 1957. In exercising his right to nominate his successor, he overlooked his elder son Prince Aly Khan and chose the latter son, the present Aga Khan.

The present Aga Khan had horses in England for the first time in 1979. Two years later, he won his first Derby with Sherpa and became the third generation of his family to be leading owner.

After siring one crop of foals, Sherpa was kidnapped by the IRA and never seen again.

FOOTBALL

McManaman makes history with his England selection

By IAN ROSS

STEVE McManaman, the young Liverpool midfielder, will make history to-night when he takes his place in the England team for the under-21 international against Wales at Prenton Park, the home of Tranmere Rovers.

McManaman, aged 18, will become the first player to win international honours for England above junior level before he has made his debut in the Football League.

McManaman, who has not even won a place on the substitutes' bench at Liverpool, is one of seven players selected by Lawrie McMenemy, England's assistant manager, who will be making their debuts in the first meeting of the two countries at under-21 level for 11 years.

After seeing his provisional squad substantially reduced because of injuries, McMenemy has named only four players with previous

international experience: Ebberell, of Everton, Warburton, of Oldham Athletic, Blake, of Aston Villa, and Shearer, of Southampton.

McMenemy took his decision to include McManaman, whom he has never seen play, after a telephone conversation with Kenny Dalglish, the Liverpool manager.

"Kenny said that he believes him to have a fair chance of making the transition from reserve team player to first team player and that is a very high recommendation," McMenemy said. "Perhaps it is unusual to be in the team at the age of 18 but the question is would he have been in a reserve team at a smaller club?"

McManaman, naturally enough, was somewhat surprised by his call-up. "To get into the squad was unbelievable and to now find myself in the team is totally unexpected," he said.

Terry Yorath, the manager of Wales, conceded that, for once, the result of an international fixture was irrelevant. "The important thing is that I have the opportunity to run the rule over those young players who are on the fringe of full international squad," he said.

"I was keen to resurrect the under-21 side in order to give players valuable experience of international football."

ENGLAND: 1 Walker (Tottenham Hotspur); 2 Whitfield (Oldham Athletic); 3 Blackwell (Wolverhampton); 4 Oat (Sunderland); 5 Blake (Aston Villa); 6 Shearer (Southampton); 7 Dalglish (Liverpool); 8 Shearer (Southampton); 9 Shearer (Southampton); 10 Shearer (Southampton); 11 Shearer (Southampton).

Wales: 1 Morgan (Manchester City); 2 Morgan (Manchester City); 3 Morgan (Manchester City); 4 Morgan (Manchester City); 5 Morgan (Manchester City); 6 Morgan (Manchester City); 7 Morgan (Manchester City); 8 Morgan (Manchester City); 9 Morgan (Manchester City); 10 Morgan (Manchester City); 11 Morgan (Manchester City).

Johnson shares the plaudits

ADRIAN BROOKS



TRISH Johnson, the No. 1 woman golfer in Europe, paid tribute to two of the men in her life as she collected the plaudits and a cheque for £12,000 at the Woolmark Order of Merit lunch at the Churchill Hotel in London yesterday (Patricia Davies writes).

First and foremost, having spent some of her winnings on buying him a pair of luncheon shoes because his baggage had not arrived from the United States, Johnson (pictured above) commended Kenny Strickman, her long-suffering boyfriend, for his patience and support. "He has been a great inspiration," she said. "He has been a great inspiration."

"It was bad tempered and sometimes I could be ridiculous, behaving like an idiot," she said. "It came to a head at La Manga last year where I hit a great shot into one hole but it came up short." She shouted at Strickman: "You might as well put the bag down," and to

her horror, and his credit, he did just that. She confessed: "I realised how stupid and daft I'd been and that I couldn't go on like that." She did not, and a totally changed approach, a growing maturity, was one of the reasons for her success this season.

A little emotionally, Johnson also gave her wholehearted support to Joe Flanagan, the executive director of the tour, whose fitness for the position had been called into question by some disgruntled members. "I think Joe's done a tremendous job," Johnson said, "considering what he's got to work with. At the Solheim Cup, in Florida, you only had to see how well he worked with the Americans to appreciate what a good job he was doing."

Apparently, one of Flanagan's sins is that, at the age of 63, he is too old to lead a dynamic, forward-looking organisation. He was, however, heartened by the news that the women's tour in the United States has just appointed a 60-year-old to lead it.

Ramsamy to put rebel tour to IOC

LAUSANNE (Reuters) — A planned rebel rugby union tour of South Africa will be discussed today at a meeting of the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) apartheid commission, Sam Ramsamy, the anti-apartheid campaigner, said yesterday.

Ramsamy, the chairman of the London-based South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (Sanroc), described

the proposed tour as "selfish and short term and out of step with the majority of South African sports administrators". He said he intended to raise the matter with the commission following the announcement by Danie Craven, the president of the South African Rugby Board, that an unnamed country was willing to visit the republic next year.

Craven's statement last Saturday followed a meeting in Harare last month at which South Africa agreed to accept a moratorium on competition with other countries. But Craven said on Saturday that he was not prepared to wait four or five years for the moratorium to be lifted.

Ramsamy was unable to say which country was involved in the proposed tour.

Craven's statement last Saturday followed a meeting in Harare last month at which South Africa agreed to accept a moratorium on competition with other countries. But Craven said on Saturday that he was not prepared to wait four or five years for the moratorium to be lifted.

RUGBY UNION

Greyhounds give best to potent Cambridge pack

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

Cambridge LX Club... 23
Oxford Greyhounds... 0

THIS annual game between the Oxford second teams, held at Orange Road yesterday, boasts more than 70 years of tradition. It has pointed the way seven times in nine seasons to the winners of the University match at Twickenham.

Cambridge would be happy with these conclusions with next Tuesday in mind. The LX Club showed the footballing wit, allied with superior scrummaging and loose play, which persistently forced the Greyhounds in to uncomfortable positions near their own corner flags and ultimate defeat.

The LX Club, fortified by Macrae and Warham, their two players closest to a blue this season, found the freedom to run, which confounded a dour Greyhounds team with poor hands and only a 16-9 penalty count in their favour.

Unusually, the teams included no past blues but several of this LX Club would be worthy of one in less burgeoning Light Blue years. Jenkins, the England Under-21 flanker, strengthened the impression with two contrasting tries.

Jenkins sprang on to a long throw over the tail of a five-man lineout for his first try and took a short pass from Thomas, his captain, from a maul following a drop-out for his second. This guided the LX Club to their biggest win in the fixture since a 31-point victory at Iliff Road seven years ago.

The LX Club scored all four tries through their forwards, which did scant justice to their backs' contribution. Pring provided a service which fell short of the mark for the Greyhounds, whose scoring threat was restricted to the final few minutes.

Plan to halt slide at London Welsh

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

LONDON Welsh, whose descent to the fourth division of English rugby has been one of the sadder stories of the 1980s, outlined yesterday their hopes of a revival in the 1990s. They have instituted a five-year development programme which will enable them to ensure that the young talent the club has traditionally produced can be used more effectively.

One of the ironies of recent times is that such players as Paul Burnell, the Scottish prop, and Damian Hopley, the burgeoning Wasp and England B centre, learned the game in the London Welsh youth section yet were discarded by club rules from representing the first XV. But club officials believe that their decline has now bottomed out and the basis has been formed for a process of regeneration.

Last season produced a budget deficit of £50,000 and rumours of a possible move from Old Deer Park, but the financial side of the club is much healthier this season, as the playing record which, halfway through the season, ensures that further relegation is not a threat even though instant promotion back to the national third division is unlikely.

The Welsh retain a strong, loyal membership of nearly 2,000. Brigadier Ralph James, the chairman, said yesterday: "We expressed the hope that they could take advantage of the great number of first and second generation Welshmen now living in the south-east of England. We have a long tradition of producing young players, then losing them. Now we must bring them through, confident of their ability to survive in and contribute to our first XV."

The club is optimistic that two or three members of the Oxford and Cambridge XV's will join them after the university match and James hinted at the need for greater flexibility regarding playing qualifications. "You have to be careful that the balance is right," Jeremy Evans, the club captain who is recovering from a back injury, said. "But the players don't offer any barriers. We welcome any players who meet the criteria."

Ian Patterson, the club coaching organiser who is from North Harbour in New Zealand, said that the new player-development programme offered a framework where before, when he arrived at the club last season, there was little direction. "With standards improving in the leagues we have suffered from a lack of direction and organisation," he said. "The main priority is getting a development squad for players aged 16-21 under way. That is going well and the younger players appreciate being the focus of attention."

London Welsh also plan a reunion in October of the 1971 British Isles team, which included seven Exiles. They will celebrate the 20 years since that tour with a dinner at the London Hilton on the eve of the England-New Zealand international which begins the 1991 World Cup.

Phil May, the Llanelli forward, is expected to be out for a month with the fractured chest bone he suffered on Saturday. Andy Phillips has joined South Wales Police after failing to command a place in Pontypriod's Heineken League side.

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IN BRIEF

Hopes for Nannini

MILAN (AP) — Alessandro Nannini, the Italian Formula One driver who had his right forearm severed in a helicopter crash, yesterday was quoted as saying that next August he would test his chances of returning to motor racing in 1992.

Nannini, aged 31, told *Gazzetta dello Sport* that he hoped to drive again for Benetton-Ford, but "only if I can prove I am 100 per cent fit".

ATHLETICS: Nanto Tajima

ATHLETICS: Nanto Tajima, who won the triple jump gold medal at the 1986 Berlin Olympics with a world record leap of 16 metres (about 52 ft 6 in), died of a stroke in Tokyo, yesterday. He was 78.

CRICKET: Simon Brown, the batsman, and Paul Berry, a bowler, have left Northamptonshire. The club has signed Tim Walton, aged 17, a batsman, for two years.

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): San Francisco 49ers 7, New York Giants 3.
BASKETBALL
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston Celtics 105, Seattle SuperSonics 102. Utah Jazz 105, Washington Wizards 101.
BOWLS
COUNTY MATCH: Oxfordshire 132, Wiltshire 111.
CRICKET
KARACHI: Pakistan's Trophy: Peshawar Zalmi 214, Karachi Kings 214. Karachi Kings 214, Peshawar Zalmi 214.
HOCKEY
NHL: Los Angeles Kings 4, Chicago Blackhawks 3. New York Rangers 4, Philadelphia Flyers 3.
TENNIS
ATLANTA: Andre Agassi 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, defeated Andre Agassi 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.
GOLF
PGA TOUR: Greg Norman 6-5, 7-6, 6-4, defeated Greg Norman 6-5, 7-6, 6-4.
RUGBY UNION
SCOTLAND: Scotland 19, Wales 19. Scotland 19, Wales 19.
RUGBY FOOTBALL
SCOTLAND: Scotland 19, Wales 19. Scotland 19, Wales 19.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New York Rangers 4, Philadelphia Flyers 3. New York Rangers 4, Philadelphia Flyers 3.
NHL: Los Angeles Kings 4, Chicago Blackhawks 3. New York Rangers 4, Philadelphia Flyers 3.
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SNOOKER

GLASGOW: Stephen Hendry 5-0, defeated Stephen Hendry 5-0. Stephen Hendry 5-0, defeated Stephen Hendry 5-0.
SNOOKER: Stephen Hendry 5-0, defeated Stephen Hendry 5-0. Stephen Hendry 5-0, defeated Stephen Hendry 5-0.
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BADMINTON

Middlemiss and Hogg gain reward
Kenny Middlemiss and Russell Hogg, Welsh Open semi-finalists at the weekend, have been rewarded with places in the Great Britain Olympic squad (a Special Correspondent writes).

The only other Scot named in the squad is Anne Gibson, the Scottish No. 1, from Dumfries, who reached the quarter-finals of the Scottish and Welsh opens.

Time for poll tax reforms running out, councils say

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

LOCAL authority treasurers said yesterday that the government was running out of time in its attempts to reform the poll tax.

As Michael Heseltine told the Commons that he would leave no stone unturned in his reappraisal of the community charge, town hall finance officers said that he must act quickly to avoid administrative chaos.

Planning for next year's local authority budgets is already well advanced. Chris Patten, Mr Heseltine's predecessor, announced provisional figures for grants, spending targets and poll tax bills on October 31.

The announcement also included proposals for new capping powers, which would give Mr Heseltine the right to step in if individual councils increased their spending by more than 9 per cent, or 12.5 per cent above their standard spending assessment.

Both elements of the package have now been put on ice with the disclosure that formal parliamentary orders implementing them will not be tabled before Christmas, to give time for the poll tax review to be completed. As a result, much of the budgetary planning at town and county halls will have to come to a halt until well into the new year.

After serious problems last year, following the late announcement of capping criteria and delays in issuing

spending targets and grant figures, Mr Patten had promised that this year councils would be given good notice. The Conservative leadership election and the appointment of Mr Heseltine as environment secretary, with a remit to review the poll tax, has, however, renewed the uncertainty.

Steve Lord, finance officer of the Association of London Authorities, said: "Although treasurers would have waited for the formal confirmation of the figures, work will already have begun on planning next year's budgets." Most council treasurers had already worked out the implications of the provisional grant settlement, and service committees had started planning their spending for next year.

If the poll tax review led to big changes in January, it could be impossible to issue bills by the end of April, especially if there were alterations to the transitional relief scheme, which helps those whose poll tax bills are much higher than their old rates bills. Councils have to calculate and deduct transitional relief before bills are sent out, and rebates for those on low incomes cannot be worked out until any deduction for transitional relief has been made. Late billing would mean serious cash flow difficulties for councils, Mr Lord said.

Leading article, page 13
Heseltine proposals, page 1

Ministers' science advisers ignored

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE government ignored the recommendations of its own advisers when it set the science budget for 1991-2.

The figures, announced in the chancellor's autumn statement last month, provided for an increase of £22 million in research council funding, rather than the £94.6 million the Advisory Board for the Research Councils is understood to have recommended.

The increase, which the Department of Education and Science claimed was in line with inflation, was in fact less than 3 per cent. If the government had followed the board's advice, the increase would have been 10.5 per cent, roughly in line with the inflation rate.

The education department and the board will not confirm the figures, on the ground that the advice given was confidential. In previous years the advice has been made public, but the potential for ministerial embarrassment was so great that from this year the figures are not being published.

The Institution of Professional, Managers and Specialists, representing scientists and engineers working in the research councils, will today meet Sir Mark Richards, chairman of the Science and Engineering Research Council, to urge him to take the case for more money direct to Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary. The institution wants a £7 million cash injection for the current financial year, and an extra £40 million for 1991-2 out of the government's contingency reserve.

Science, pages 16, 17



Large surge: the great electricity sell-off sparked a last-minute rush of applicants, with thousands forming a 200-yard queue outside a National Westminster branch in the City before applications closed at 10am yesterday. Business news, page 25

Debate in Dail on Ulster aim

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FOR the first time in more than fifty years, the Irish parliament is debating how articles in the republic's constitution claiming jurisdiction over Northern Ireland could be amended.

Although the private members' bill is being opposed by Charles Haughey's coalition government, the measure will give deputies an opportunity to discuss whether the articles are a political aspiration or legal imperative to the unification of Ireland.

It seeks to amend the two articles by including a "consent clause", saying there would be no change in the status of Northern Ireland without the consent of a majority of its people, and that unity would be achieved in "peace, harmony and by consent". Even if passed, any proposed constitutional amendment would have to be put to a national referendum.

Introducing the bill, Proinsias De Rossa, leader of the Workers' party, said the bill had been given a new urgency by a Supreme Court judgment last March which described the territorial claim in the two articles as a "constitutional imperative". Unionists claim the two articles are territorial and offensive but nationalists in Ulster say they are essential for their political aspirations.

Leading article, page 13

Box office boom 'will fall away'

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE booming box offices of the past ten years will fall victim to the recession, London's theatre management has been warned.

Duncan Weldon, a producer, has predicted that the number of shows in the West End of London will have to be cut by a third if the financial health of the London stage is to be maintained. "Our recession will be slow and it will last five years," he said.

Only 10 per cent of West End shows are making a profit, he added, and the rising cost of productions, now averaging £250,000 compared to £100,000 two decades ago, is also taking its toll. Mr Weldon is concerned about the lack of popular new material and the increasing costs of a night out for audiences already hit by high interest rates and inflation.

The Policy Studies Institute's latest quarterly arts report, *Cultural Trends*, to be published next week, is expected to show that, even if productions are not being cancelled, the theatrical boom of the past ten years is over. Andrew Feist, one of its authors, said the London stage was in danger of losing a lot of its younger audience. *Cultural Trends* will point to figures from the Society of West End Theatre and the City University box office survey, which show that the

new, younger audience gained in the 1980s is becoming more middle-aged. It also says that audience numbers have risen by less than 1 per cent in the past two years.

Other producers, however, remain optimistic. Michael Codron, one of the most consistently successful West End producers since the 1960s, said: "The facts don't bear out Duncan's prognosis. Where are these theatres which aren't running profitably?"

Andre Ptaszynski, aged 37, one of the new breed of West End producers, has no doubts about the future either. "It is more difficult to ensure success. It costs a lot of money and you can't get away with a near-bit any more, but a producer isn't going to give up on an idea because it's difficult to find investors. That's never been a deterrent."

Rupert Rhymes, chief executive of the society, said: "Times are harder but producers are coping by looking at what audiences go for. People are not going to take a risk with shows they don't know the reputation of and, coupled with the shortage of new material, that could mean a trend back to traditional theatre. It's not so much the bubble bursting as changing shape."

Leading article, page 13

Open hostility erupts over union election

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE contest for the leadership of Britain's fifth biggest union erupted into open hostility yesterday amid allegations of extremism and intimidation. Roger Lyons, one of the candidates, said that the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union is under threat from a "desperate caucus" of hard-liners.

Mr Lyons, an assistant general secretary of the union, hopes to take over the top post from Ken Gill, a former member of the British Communist party, who retires in 1992. Mr Gill is backing the other deputy general secretary, Barbara Switzer, a member of the Labour party's national executive committee, to succeed him. Both he and Mrs Switzer are closely concerned with the management of the *Morning Star* newspaper.

Mr Lyons, announcing his candidacy yesterday, said: "I must alert the membership to a serious threat from a desperate caucus of hard-liners, whose political ideology has been discredited and rejected across Eastern Europe. I will oppose strenuously any attempt by extremist elements to hijack the union."

He said that it was wrong that a third of the 650,000-strong union's national executive committee consisted of hard-left activists and that they controlled half of its regional councils. The union's democratic processes were being undermined by "secret

covens and caucuses" of hard-liners who intimidated national officers. "I appeal to the members to safeguard the future of the MSF and prevent a vacuum being filled by unrepresentative elements who would divide and undermine the union," he added.

Mrs Switzer said: "I expect this election to be conducted on the issues rather than on name calling. Our members are at the sharp end of this government's economic policies and they face a serious threat of job losses while Lyons is apparently putting his own ambition before our members' needs for a united union."

Ripper wife made pact of chastity

Sonia Sutcliffe, the wife of the Yorkshire Ripper, made a pact with her husband not to have sexual intercourse with another man for ten years after he was jailed.

She told the High Court yesterday that she had remained faithful even though she felt only pity for him.

She was being cross-examined by George Carman, QC, for the *News of the World*, in her libel action over an article that claimed she had a "sizzling affair" with a man who looked like her husband. The trial continues today.

MP risks jail

The Labour MP Terry Fields was served with a liability order by magistrates yesterday after refusing to pay his poll tax. However, the MP for Liverpool Broadgreen said he would still not pay even if it meant going to jail. Mr Fields, aged 53, was summoned by Sefton council to face Boodle magistrates' court for non-payment of his £373 community charge.

Ulster remand

Tommy "Tucker" Lytle, aged 52, leader of the loyalist Ulster Defence Association in West Belfast, was remanded in custody yesterday. He is accused of attempting to pervert the course of justice, threatening to kill witnesses and possessing documents useful to terrorists.

250 jobs lost

The Bear Brand factory in Liverpool, which makes stockings and tights, is to close with the loss of 250 jobs, it was announced yesterday. The company said the Woolton site was no longer economic but it hoped some staff would be redeployed.

By the Times overseas
Austria Sch 33 Belgium 8 Fr 56
Canada 52.75 Canada 102
Czech 90 Czech 100 Denmark 100
Finland Mark 10.00 France F 100
Germany DM 100 Italy Lit 2,000
Japan 17 55 Mark 100 New 220
Netherlands 100 1.300 Norway 140
Spain 165 Sweden 100 Sweden 100
Switzerland S Fr 5.20
Turkey Lira 1.20 USA \$ 80.00

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Built on a bed of peat, it is the roads on Islay that do the travelling. As the highly absorbent peat takes in water, it expands and forces the roads to rise and fall. It is this same peat that is cut, dried and then burnt in kilns to malt the barley when making Laphroaig. Giving Laphroaig a distinctive rich and smokey taste that has remained unchanged for well over 150 years. As for the roads? Well, they have their ups and downs.

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